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Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-066
Thursday
6 April 1995

Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

FBIS-NES-95-066 CONTENTS *6 April 1995*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Parliamentary Union Concludes Conference 1
  Sanctions on Iraq, Libya Discussed *[MAP]* 1
  Iraq's Salih Addresses Conference *[INA]* 1
  Lebanon's Birri Delivers Speech *[Beirut Radio]* 1
  Final Statement Issued *[Rabat Radio]* 2
Labor Conference Voices Support for Libya, Sudan *[MENA]* 3

Islamic Affairs

PAIC Secretary General Holds News Conference *[Omdurman Radio]* 4

Palestinian Affairs

'Thousands' Attend Hamas Rally for Kamil Kahil *[Jericho Radio]* 4
Hamas Threatens Retaliation After Gaza Explosion *[Tehran Radio]* 4
  Says Blast Caused by Booby-Trapped Suitcase *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Police Raid Journalist's Home Over Report on Bomb *[Jerusalem Radio]* 4
Al-Husayni Expects Victory in 'Battle for Jerusalem' *[Jericho VOP]* 5
Sha'th on Meeting With Donor Nations in Washington *[Cairo International]* 5
'Arafat Speaks at Palestinian Child Conference *[Jericho VOP]* 5
  Further on Child Conference *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Human Rights Lawyer Fired After Criticizing 'Arafat *[THE JERUSALEM POST 5 Apr]* 6
Israel Reportedly Dumps Nuclear Waste in Gaza, Jericho *[AL-YAWM 3 Apr]* 6
Israel's Move on Jerusalem Taxpayers Rejected *[Jericho VOP]* 6
Israel Asked To Stop Excavations in West Bank Town *[Jericho VOP]* 7
Representative Says Saudi Arabia Recognizes Passport *[Jericho VOP]* 7

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Dembri Hints at New Dialogue With Opposition *[London FINANCIAL TIMES 6 Apr]* 8
  Urges 'National Detente' *[London MBC TV]* 8
Prime Minister on Economy, Security, Elections *[Algiers TV]* 8
  Predicts Economic Improvement *[Munich FOCUS 3 Apr]* 11
Commerce Minister Discusses Economic Issues *[Algiers Radio]* 11
Security Service: 12 'Criminals' 'Eliminated' *[Algiers Radio]* 12
  Identities of Leaders Released *[Algiers Radio]* 12
FLN Confirms Nonparticipation in Elections *[Paris International]* 12
Government To Privatize Water Utilities *[Algiers TV]* 12
Human Rights Leader Discusses Violations *[London AL-HAYAH 31 Mar]* 12

Egypt

Reportage on Husni Mubarak's Visit to Washington 14
  Holds News Conference With Clinton *[MENA]* 14
  Pledges Not To Withdraw From NPT *[MENA]* 17
  Denies Problems in Relations *[MENA]* 18

Expresses 'Full Satisfaction' *[MENA]* 18
Importance of Talks Viewed *[Cairo Radio]* 19
Musa Interviewed on Nuclear Treaty, Peres Meeting *[London MBC TV]* 20
Daily Laments 'Huge' Israeli Nuclear Arsenal *[Cairo Radio]* 20
'Official Sources' Deny Reports of PFLP Office *[London AL-HAYAH 6 Apr]* 20

Libya

VOA, BBC Criticized for 'Clear Distortion' *[JANA]* 21
Sudan, Uganda Agree on Principles for Accord *[JANA]* 21
Agreement Reached With Sudan on Information Cooperation *[Tripoli Radio]* 22

Sudan

Al-Turabi Said To Embrace 'Extremist Elements' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 5 Apr]* 22
Al-Turabi To Meet in Nairobi With Garang *[London AL-HAYAH 4 Apr]* 23

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

Police Car Attackers Make Full Confessions *[WAKH]* 24

Oman

Sultan Endorses GCC Security Agreement *[WAKH]* 24

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Assails 'Unholy Alliance' With U.S., Israel *[London CDLR MONITOR 31 Mar]* 24

IRAQ

Saddam Reportedly Dismisses Armed Forces Officials 29
Chief of Staff Blamed for AWOL Cases *[Jerusalem TV]* 29
Radio Claims New Appointee Named *[Jericho VOP]* 29
Officers Released for 'Collusion' *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 29
'Aziz Arrives in New York for UN Discussions *[INA]* 29
Clinton, Christopher 'Contradictory Statements' Noted *[INA]* 29
Radio: U.S. Has 'No Desire' To Lift Sanctions *[Paris Radio Monte Carlo]* 29
U.S. Stand on Libyan Suspects, 2 Americans Compared *[AL-THAWRAH 2 Apr]* 30
Kurds Claim Turkish Troops Pulling Out of Bases *[AFP]* 30
Barzani Meets Turkish Group, Urges Withdrawal *[Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan]* 31
SAIRI Leader Holds Separate Talks With PUK, KDP *[Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution]* 31
PUK's Talabani Thanks Iran for Supporting Kurds *[IRNA]* 31
Turkish Officials To Meet Iraqi Kurd Leaders *[London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation]* 31
Movement Claims Regime 'Agents' Blew Up Office *[Voice of Iraqi People]* 32
Justice Minister on Damage Caused by Blockade *[MENA]* 32
Education Minister Urges World To Unfreeze Assets *[Baghdad Radio]* 32
WHO Official: Health Situation Unacceptable *[INA]* 32
German Vessel Carrying Palm Oil Docks at Umm Qasr *[INA]* 33
United Nations Notified of U.S. Aircraft Sorties *[INA]* 33
*Victory Promised in Economic War With U.S. *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 31 Jan]* 33
*Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi Interviewed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 22 Jan]* 35

ISRAEL

Gur: Egypt Trying To Exclude Nation From Regional Economy *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
New Security Procedures Started at Gaza Crossings *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
IDF Drafts Contingency Plan for West Bank *[HA'ARETZ 5 Apr]* 38
General Meets With Settlers on Redeployment *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38

IAI Denies Ofeq-3 Has Picture-Taking Capabilities *[Jerusalem Radio]* 38
Kakh Leader Ordered Under House Arrest for 6 Months *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Netanyahu 'Sure' Likud To Agree on Internal Elections *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Labor Launches Campaign To Boost Support for Peace *[Jerusalem Radio]* 39
Peace Index Shows Increase in Support for Process *[HA'ARETZ 5 Apr]* 39

JORDAN

King Husayn's Activities in New York Reported 41
    Meets Butrus-Ghali *[Amman TV]* 41
    Addresses U.S. Foreign Policy Panel *[Amman Radio]* 41
King Says Tests Show 'No Trace' of Cancer *[Amman TV]* 41
First Israeli Ambassador Arrives in Amman *[Amman Radio]* 41
First Ambassador to Israel Airs Expectations *[JORDAN TIMES 6-7 Apr]* 41
Authorities Arrest, Refuse To Release Hamas Official *[AL-WATAN 30 Mar]* 43
Opposition Parties Condemn Turkish Moves in Iraq *[AL-DUSTUR 2 Apr]* 43
    U.S. Support Alleged *[AL-BA'TH 5 Apr]* 43
Opposition Escalating Anti-Government Moves *[AL-MAJD 3 Apr]* 44
Crown Prince Visits Central Bank, Meets Governor *[Amman Radio]* 44

LEBANON

Buwayz on NPT, Israeli Blockade, 'Resistance' *[AL-AHRAM 2 Apr]* 45
Roundup of Military Activities in Southern Area 45
    Israeli Shelling, 'Resistance' Attacks *[Beirut Radio]* 45
    Israeli Shelling, Naval Blockade *[Beirut Radio]* 46
    Amal Kills 1 SLA Soldier, Wounds 3 *[VOL]* 46
Britain Maintains Travel Ban to Some Areas *[RFL]* 46

SYRIA

Damascus 'Sources': Peace Process 'Still Faltering' *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 4 Apr]* 47
Prime Minister al-Zu'bi Receives Pakistani Minister *[Damascus Radio]* 47
    Joint Committee Signs Cooperation Minutes *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Al-Shar' Receives Swedish Envoy, Invitation to Visit *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Al-Ahmar Addresses Meeting on Peace, Solidarity *[Damascus Radio]* 48
Assembly Speaker Takes Part in CSCM Meeting *[Damascus Radio]* 49
    Speaks on Peace, Other Issues *[Damascus Radio]* 49

SOUTH ASIA

Afghanistan

Rabbani Notes 'Disappointment' Over UN Warning *[IRNA]* 51
Khalili Criticizes Rabbani, Peace Plan *[London AL-HAYAH 5 Apr]* 51
Rabbani Addresses Kabul University Opening *[Kabul Radio]* 52

Bangladesh

Foreign Office Reacts to 'Irresponsible Comments' *[Dhaka Radio]* 53
Military Criticizes 'Fabricated' Media Coverage *[AFP]* 53
Editorial Urges Emphasis on Nontraditional Exports *[DAINIK ITTEFAQ 18 Mar]* 53

India

Rao Given 'Free Hand' in 'Rejuvenating' Congress *[Delhi Radio]* 54
Article Alleges 'Deal' on Kashmir Border *[THE TIMES OF INDIA 4 Apr]* 54

Iran

'Tense Climate' Reported in Towns South of Tehran 57

'Hundreds' Reportedly Dead, Injured *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 57
  Police Beef Up Security *[AFP]* ... 57
Clandestine Radio on Islamshahr Riots *[Voice of Mojahed]* ... 58
  Islamshahr Residents Protest Rioters' Actions *[IRNA]* ... 59
U.S. 'Campaign' Against Nation 'Exercise in Futility' *[IRNA]* ... 59
Diplomat Assails West's 'Hostile' Attitude on NPT *[IRNA]* ... 59
Paper Assails U.S. 'Duplicity' Over Nuclear Issue *[IRNA]* ... 60
Overall Result of Perry's Visit to Russia Viewed *[Tehran International]* ... 60
Moscow Radio Denies U.S. Claims on Nuclear Weapons *[IRNA]* ... 61
Hashemi-Rafsanjani Travels to Khuzestan Province ... 61
  Explains Aim of Visit *[Tehran Radio]* ... 61
  Views Reconstruction Efforts *[IRNA]* ... 61
  Says 'Madness' To Lock Horns With Nation *[Tehran Radio]* ... 62
Official Views Progress in Industrial Research *[ZAMINEH 21 Jan-21 Mar]* ... 62
Non-Oil Imports Exceed Exports Last Year *[ABRAR 1 Feb]* ... 64
Ministry Restricts Export of Ironware *[ABRAR 13 Feb]* ... 65
*New Foreign Exchange Regulation in Effect *[KEYHAN 4 Feb]* ... 65
Over $2.5 Million Spent on Refugees Daily *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 1 Feb]* ... 65
*Increasing Price of Goods in Demand Prohibited *[KEYHAN 6 Feb]* ... 65
Increased Number of Merchants in Alma-Ata Reported *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 7 Feb]* ... 66
*Industrial Factory Operational in Bushehr *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 9 Feb]* ... 66
*First Robot Reportedly Operational, Described *[KEYHAN 8 Feb]* ... 67
*Paper, Rubber Production Increased *[KEYHAN 9 Feb]* ... 67
*Restoration of Express Railway Wagons Begins *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 7 Feb]* ... 67
*Health Treatment Center Inaugurated in Ardekan *[JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI 7 Feb]* ... 67
Official Claims Number of Addicts Declining *[JAHAN-E ESLAM 1 Feb]* ... 68

Nepal

Communist Groups Demand Repeal of Indian Treaty *[AFP]* ... 68
Prime Minister Addresses SAARC Law Conference *[Nepal Radio]* ... 68

Pakistan

Bhutto: No Compromise on Principles During U.S. Visit *[THE MUSLIM 5 Apr]* ... 69
  'Good,' 'Bad' of Visit Examined *[THE NEWS 5 Apr]* ... 69
Pressler Amendment To Lead Bhutto Agenda *[THE NEWS 4 Apr]* ... 71
  Editorial Hails 'Breakthrough' *[THE NEWS 6 Apr]* ... 71
Police Arrest 120 Involved in Karachi Crimes *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 72
Official Denies Kashmir 'Secret Understanding' *[Islamabad Radio]* ... 72

Sri Lanka

Protests Against H. Clinton, VOA Station Reported *[AFP]* ... 72
Reportage on Next Round of Talks With LTTE ... 72
  Foreign Minister Comments *[Colombo International]* ... 72
  President: Years To Come to a Settlement *[Colombo International]* ... 73
  LTTE Letter to President *[THE NEPAL DIGEST]* ... 73

Inter-Arab Affairs

Arab Parliamentary Union Concludes Conference

Sanctions on Iraq, Libya Discussed

LD0504140995 Rabat MAP in English 1229 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Rabat, Apr. 5 (MAP)—Speaker of the Jordanian Parliament Sa'd Hayil al-Surur called members of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] meeting here, to endeavor relentlessly for the lifting of the embargo against Libya and the sanctions imposed on Iraq.

Deploring the tragic effects of the sanction on the two Arab peoples, mainly children and old people, the Jordanian official hailed the attitudes of Iraqi and Kuwaiti delegations during the union meeting to overcome difficulties and contribute to the success of the conference. He further urged Arab countries to support Lebanon and Syria in their struggle to recover their rights and to grant assistance to Palestinians to help them accede to sovereignty and establish their own state with al-Quds [Jerusalem] as their capital.

The embargo affecting Iraq was also brought up by Speaker of the Tunisian Parliament Habib Boulares who argued that efforts should be joined to lift the sanctions and to settle the issue of Kuwaiti prisoners of war held in Iraq. He added that the Arab Parliamentary Union ought to ponder on means to heal the situation and promote cooperation among member countries to consolidate the Arab world capacities during negotiations at regional and international levels.

On his part, Speaker of the Algerian National Transition Council (CNT/non elected legislative body) said he is convinced that the APU meeting will give new impetus to the union's action both at the Arab and international levels and open a new page of cooperation and solidarity. The Arab Parliamentary Union can play a leading role in defending democratic gains of the Arab world and improve democratic practices to meet aspirations to progress and solidarity, he insisted.

For speaker of the Egyptian Parliament, Ahmad Fathi al-Surur who is also [word indistinct] of the International Parliamentary Union, the Arab nation needs a minimum of cooperation and coordination to overcome the present difficult juncture.

Iraq's Salih Addresses Conference

JN0504160895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1315 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Rabat, 5 Apr (INA)—[Iraqi] National Assembly Speaker Sa'di Mahdi Salih has stressed the need to restore the unity of Arab ranks and true and sincere solidarity based on good intentions and the historic pan-Arab responsibility toward our nation, which expects much from us, and hopes that we will rise above sensitivities and parochial interests.

In a speech delivered during the evening session of the sixth conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU] which began its meetings in Rabat yesterday, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said that if we really seek to serve our nation, we should contribute to lifting the blockade clamped on the Iraqi and Libyan peoples, and struggle to save the fraternal Lebanese people in southern Lebanon from the daily Israeli aggression and occupation. He also spoke about the Palestinian people's continued suffering from the Zionist occupation and settlements despite the international initiatives, and about the continued occupation of Arab territories in the West Bank and the Golan. He said that our historic responsibility necessitates that we adopt a unified stand toward these challenges.

In his speech, the Iraqi National Assembly speaker reviewed our nation's long suffering and the heavy burdens it is shouldering as a result of differences and conflicts among its states, some of which have reached the point of infighting. He said that in all cases, all Arabs have been the losers, because there is no winner or loser in fraternal conflicts, everyone is a loser.

He continued: This situation has made us lose many opportunities to develop our countries. We have also wasted money, time, and effort at a time when all the nations are developing, while we are still at the beginning of the road. The enemies of the past unite to achieve common objectives. However, we, the brothers, who have a common history, language, and religion, have differences, conflicts, and estrangement among us.

He said: It is time we addressed our problems and relied on God to restore amity which should replace differences and estrangement, and to avoid entrapping each other.

He noted: We do not need much work and effort to achieve this. Through good intentions and adherence to the values and principles of our true religion and glorious nation, we can achieve the unity of Arab ranks and adopt a true unified Arab position which we wish for our nation.

Concluding his speech, Sa'di Mahdi Salih said: We have come from Iraq with pure hearts and open minds to contribute, along with you, to saving our nation from its current situation. We are fully ready to forget the wounds of the past and present, putting the nation's interests and future above all other considerations.

Lebanon's Birri Delivers Speech

NC0504173695 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Chamber of Deputies Speaker Nabih Birri has delivered Lebanon's speech at the final session of the Arab Parliamentary Union's sixth conference in Rabat. He dealt with Arab solidarity, the Lebanese situation, Israeli aggression, and the region's peace process.

In his address, Birri warned against attempts at creating a Middle Eastern order in which Arab stature and interests will melt.

He said there can be no peace among Arab countries while democracy does not exist in every Arab country. He noted that enhanced democracy is the basis for organizing common relations and eliminating any tension in inter-Arab relations. He said participating in a regional economic order before establishing a common Arab market will [words indistinct] the national markets and squander Arab resources through consumption and giving up labor and production markets.

Discussing the south, Speaker Birri gave some details of the recurrent Israeli acts of aggression. He said the call for solidarity with Lebanon on 14 March stemmed from a feeling in Lebanon and Syria that the two countries have been isolated and from a feeling of Arab fragmentation and violation of the Arab League Charter. This situation, he noted, is manifested in the weak Arab position, the rush to normalize ties with Israel, and the thought of joint projects with it.

Final Statement Issued

LD0604011295 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Arab Parliamentary Union's sixth conference concluded its final session a few moments ago. We open the line for the radio team from the headquarters of the House of Representatives, where they will provide us with a report about the issue.

[Unidentified correspondent] The Arab Parliamentary Union's sixth conference concluded its work by issuing a final statement, the drafting of which took a long time and exceeded the defined period according to the agenda of conference. The work was scheduled to end this morning.

According to sources close to the closed session, which was held at the level of the heads of the Arab parliamentary delegations, before finishing putting the final touches on the draft of the final statement, the heads of the Arab parliamentary delegations exerted great efforts to overcome a number of Arab problems under review, and worked on them with the aim of making this meeting successful and creating a new process entitled "Arab solidarity."

Thus, the Arab Parliamentary Union's sixth conference issued a draft final statement, which was read by Mr. Akram Shuhayb, member of the Lebanese parliament, during the concluding session that was presided over by the chairman of the conference, Mr. Mohamed Jalal Essaid [speaker of the Moroccan House of Representatives].

The draft of the final statement says that the heads of the delegations reviewed the Arab and international conditions under which the conference was being held, and their views are unanimous in that the current period is the most crucial and difficult in modern Arab history.

The Arab parliamentarians participating in the Rabat conference said that while they proceeded from the goals stipulated by the Arab Union's charter, they are aware that reviving Arab solidarity should be based on essential elements and convictions confirmed by experiences and ordeals through which the Arab nation has gone during its long history. In the forefront of those elements and convictions are:

The future of the Arabs and their international standing are conditional on their unity, and the security and unity of the Arab nation are two correlated issues;

Strict adherence to the principle of noninterference in the internal affairs of any Arab country, because the people of each country are more entitled and more capable of assessing their course at the internal level in accordance with their characteristics and aspirations;

Putting a decisive end to any foreign intervention in the affairs of the Arab countries from whichever side;

Benefiting from the Arab wealth and sources to achieve economic growth within the framework of economic integration among the Arab countries;

To entrench the values and the democratic concepts and perpetuate human rights and protect these rights in the Arab homeland and enable the Arab man to take part in decision-making and making it the basis of every activity;

To cooperate with all the states of the world on the basis of common interests and the principle of equal treatment for the sake of establishing a world in which peace, cooperation, and prosperity prevail.

The draft final statement of the conference adds that the Arab parliamentarians consider the ambitions which surround the Arab nation—whether about its territory or water or resources—and what is left of territory that remains usurped in the Arab east in the Golan, Palestine, Lebanon, or in Morocco in Ceuta and Melilla—cannot be confronted except, as the speeches of all the delegations have shown, through the need to rebuild a real Arab solidarity.

The draft final statement appeals to the Arab states to unite and get together to overcome their differences, to repair the rift and revive and strengthen Arab solidarity, to draw up a strong Pan-Arab strategy comprising a common view of the issues of Arab security and respect of the right of every Arab state to sovereignty over its natural resources, to strengthen the role of the Arab League and develop its charter which guarantees an enhancement of its role and an increase in its effectiveness to carry out the programs and the political, economic projects approved by the Arab summit conferences, to work for bolstering public liberties and the rights of the Arab man and entrench the progress of democracy and the freedom of expression and political pluralism in the manner which is decided by each Arab country in accordance with its own circumstances and experiences. To entrust the president of the Arab Parliamentary Union to contact Arab leaders and officials for the purpose of taking part in clearing the Arab climate and removing the differences between Arab states and taking part in strengthening Arab solidarity and to entrust to him all that can restore unity to the Arab body.

With regard to the Palestinian issue and the Middle East problem, the draft final statement says the conference calls for continuing actions to achieve a peaceful, comprehensive, and just solution to the Middle East problem and the Palestinian question in accordance with UN resolutions. It condemns the repressive practices and assassinations which Israel has been committing continuously against the Palestinian Arab people in all the occupied territories. It also calls for adopting a unified stance towards making the Middle East a region which is free from nuclear arms and all weapons of mass destruction.

With regard to Lebanon, the conference stresses the need to work for the implementation of UN Resolution 425, which stipulates the unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from southern Lebanon on the basis of Article 7 of the UN Charter. It stresses the Lebanese people's right to resist Israeli occupation.

Regarding the dispute between the Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and some Western states, the conference expresses its deep concern with regard to the human and material damages caused to the Libyan people and neighboring peoples by the mandatory sanctions imposed on the Libyan people.

The conference reiterates its solidarity with the Libyan people in these difficult circumstances and calls on the sides concerned to seek a peaceful solution through dialogue in accordance with the UN Charter.

About the paragraph concerning Kuwaiti-Iraqi relations, the participants express their deep regret and great pain for the continuation of the situation concerning this relationship ever since the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait—a situation that has been rejected by all the Arab states and institutions. They also express their hope that the international legitimacy in this area of the Arab homeland be respected.

In this framework, the conference welcomes Iraqi recognition of the state of Kuwait and Kuwaiti sovereignty, territorial safety, political independence, and the international border in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 833. It considers this an important first step and it calls on Iraq to implement all the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, particularly those resolutions that concern the release of Kuwaitis and other citizens and that will pave the way to end, as soon as possible, the suffering which is a result of the blockade of the Iraqi people.

On the Spanish occupation of the two towns of Ceuta and Melilla, the conference calls on Spain to withdraw from the occupied Moroccan territory in Ceuta and Melilla and calls on Spain to agree to setting up a joint cell to solve this problem in such a way that guarantees for Morocco its sovereignty and rights, and for Spain, its interests.

The conference, according to the final statement of the 6th conference of the Arab Parliamentary Union, stresses that Islam is the religion of moderation, the call to wisdom, and the preaching of goodness. Attempts to change this radiant picture of our faith and our civilization are nothing but an insult to all the Islamic peoples.

After the debate, the final statement was approved after placing on record the Iraqi, Sudanese, Palestinian, and Yemeni reservations concerning the paragraph on the relations between Kuwait and Iraq.

At the end of the conference, the Arab parliamentarians sent a telegram of thanks, esteem and gratitude to His Majesty King Hassan II for his gracious care for the conference of the Arab parliamentarians. They expressed their high appreciation for his persistent efforts in bringing the Arab points of view closer and for unity and for clearing the air, pledging to support His Majesty and Arab leaders in all their future initiatives in this framework.

Labor Conference Voices Support for Libya, Sudan

NC0504204095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1858 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—The Arab Labor Conference has announced its solidarity with the Libyan and Sudanese peoples and asserted the two countries' independence and the freedom of their peoples to confront foreign pressure.

In its resolution tonight expressing solidarity with Libya and Sudan, the Arab Labor Conference asserted its resolutions adopted in the previous session in Cairo on solidarity with the Libyan people. It praised the Libyan Government's positions on reaching a peaceful solution to the Libyan-Western crisis in the context of Libyan national sovereignty and international law.

The resolution urged the Western countries to respond to the Arab League resolution calling for a peaceful solution to the crisis and avoiding any escalation that would increase tension in the region and hamper social development plans in the region's countries.

The Arab Labor Conference resolution called on UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali and the Security Council to consider the harm inflicted on people and the bad social repercussions before adopting any resolution on sanctions against countries.

The conference asked the Arab Labor Organization director general, Bakr Mahmud Rasul, to implement the resolution.

The conference also emphasized Sudan's unity and independence and the confrontation of any threat against it. The conference expressed its support for the efforts being made to resolve the southern Sudan issue through negotiations and dialogue involving the various parties.

The resolution praised the Sudanese Government's commitment to the option of dialogue, its repeated calls for dialogue, and rejection of foreign interference.

Islamic Affairs

PAIC Secretary General Holds News Conference

EA0304180695 Omdurman Republic of Sudan Radio Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The secretary general of the Popular Arab and Islamic Conference [PAIC], Dr. Hasan Abdullah al-Turabi, held a news conference at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum this evening, which was attended by the local and international media organizations and news agencies covering the proceedings of the third session of the PAIC.

Dr. al-Turabi reviewed the recommendations made by the conference, which ended this morning. Dr. al-Turabi denied that the conference had reacted with hostility toward the West. Instead, it offered a framework for dialogue and positive interaction with Western society and its religious and cultural institutions, he said.

Dr. al-Turabi denied the allegations of terrorism in Sudan made by the United States. He said Sudan was open to all those who seek to know the truth.

He said the conference called on the Third World to campaign for the reform of the United Nations. He described the United Nations as being set on a course which was unconstitutional and undemocratic.

Concerning the international human rights convention proposed by the PAIC, Dr. al-Turabi announced that this convention would be based on the Islamic viewpoint which extended rights to every human being.

Palestinian Affairs

'Thousands' Attend Hamas Rally for Kamil Kahil

TA0504175395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Thousands of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] supporters gathered outside the home of Kamil Kahil, one of the terrorists killed in the explosion at the bomb factory in Gaza this week. Palestinian sources said that during the memorial rally, Hamas officials accused the Palestinian Authority [PA] of cooperating with Israel against Hamas.

Hamas Threatens Retaliation After Gaza Explosion

NC0504200395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Report by Beirut correspondent Muhammad Bishkar on the situation in Gaza]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview we conducted with him at his residence in Amman a short time ago, Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah, official spokesman for Hamas, accused the Palestinian Authority of colluding with the occupation authorities to carry out the Gaza explosion. He revealed that after the explosion the Palestinian police took explosive charges to the site for political reasons to incite the Palestinian people against the opposition forces and the Islamic Resistance in Palestine. Ghawshah uttered threats against the Palestinian Authority and the occupation authorities. Ghawshah said:

[Begin Ghawshah recording] Undoubtedly, the al-Qassam Battalions, the military wing of Hamas, are bound to reach these criminals who committed this crime on the level of the Palestinian Authority to punish them. The battalions will also retaliate against the Zionists, as the masses chanted during the 20,000-strong demonstration held on the Gaza streets yesterday, announcing that the martyrs' blood will be avenged in the heart of Tel Aviv. [end recording]

Says Blast Caused by Booby-Trapped Suitcase

TA0604100895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] published a leaflet today stating that the explosion at the bomb factory in Gaza was a premeditated attack. Our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem reports that the leaflet's authors claim that an anonymous man handed a suitcase containing a bomb to a boy from the (Da'as) family, who lives in the building, and asked him to deliver it to the terrorist Kamal Kahil. The leaflet states that the boy entered the terrorists' hideout and handed over the suitcase which immediately blew up.

Police Raid Journalist's Home Over Report on Bomb

TA0504093895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0800 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian security service has raided the home of AL-NAHAR journalist Tahir 'Anunu with the intention of arresting him, but he was not there. Gazan sources told our correspondent Yoni Ben-Menahem that 'Anunu published a report in his newspaper that Palestinian police experts claim the al-Shaykh Radwan explosion was set off by a time bomb planted in the building in the absence of its occupants. The Palestinian police called it a distorted report and said 'Anunu also distorted General Ghazi al-Jabali's remarks at a news conference after the explosion.

AL-NAHAR today published an official clarification by the Palestinian police on the circumstances surrounding the blast and the explosives used in the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] apartment in Gaza's al-Shaykh Radwan neighborhood.

Al-Husayni Expects Victory in 'Battle for Jerusalem'

JN0604072395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0500 GMT 6 Apr 95

[From the "New Day" program]

[FBIS Translated Text] Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, has said Israel will eventually give up East Jerusalem despite its assertions that it will keep the holy city as its unified capital. Al-Husayni said: We will triumph in the battle for Jerusalem despite all dangers. He added: We are trying to defend our existence on the ground in order to achieve this goal because Jerusalem is the only place where we can make a real success.

Sha'th on Meeting With Donor Nations in Washington

NC0604091995 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0610 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nabil Sha'th, planning and international cooperation minister of the Palestinian Authority, in Washington, by Ashraf 'Abd-al-'Aziz in Cairo; date not given; from the "Dialogue From Afar" program—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] ['Abd-al-'Aziz] May I ask you about your current visit to Washington and the nature of your talks there?

[Sha'th] In fact, we are discussing several topics here in Washington. The first topic is the meeting of the donor nations or the so-called coordinating committee of the donor nations. This is a preparatory meeting for the main meeting which will be held in Paris on 27 and 28 April. Naturally, there are basic needs which the donors must meet but which they have been late in meeting. Some positive development occurred after the Brussels meeting in November. This positive development caused progress which lapsed in February. Now the budget is short of the necessary funds. We must go back to the donors so that each one of them will carry out its responsibilities and pay the amount it has pledged. At this meeting, we agreed on the new Palestinian budget and on the amount that must be paid to cover the deficit. We agreed that the main cause of the deficit is the Israeli blockade imposed on Palestinian territory. We also agreed that the donor nations must at least fill this deficit. I believe that the meeting was positive in this connection. These recommendations will be submitted to the main meeting which will be held in Paris at the end of this month. [passage omitted]

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Were meetings held between you and Israeli officials in Washington?

[Sha'th] Yes, the Israeli delegation here is a large one. It consists of representatives of the foreign and defense ministries. It was an opportunity for us to continue our discussion on outstanding issues that have not been implemented so far in the agreements signed between the two sides, especially the opening of crossings for trade between us and Egypt and between us and Jordan, and the early opening of the port and airport. All these demands are important and necessary, especially in view of the Israeli blockade of our areas.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] What was their reaction?

[Sha'th] At least they promised. We hope these promises will be implemented when we return to the homeland.

['Abd-al-'Aziz] Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and Israeli Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres will meet in Paris. How do you view this meeting?

[Sha'th] There are problems in Egyptian-Israeli relations. Israel cannot ignore these problems, including the problem of the extension of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty. Naturally, we fully support Egypt's stance, which is in fact an Arab stance. Israel must respond positively to the Egyptian demands in this regard. This topic will feature prominently in the Egyptian-Israeli meeting in Paris. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Speaks at Palestinian Child Conference

JN0504171195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 April 95

[Report by 'Adil al-Za'nun]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Yasir 'Arafat this morning opened the Palestinian Child Conference at al-Shawwa Cultural Center in Gaza.

In a speech at the opening session, President 'Arafat stated that 5 April will be designated Palestinian Child Day. He also said that the Palestinian people and the National Authority endorse the Arab Child Day, which was ratified by the Arab League, and the World Child Day.

The president added: We must build the Palestinian state with its capital Jerusalem so that our children can live like other children in the world.

He added: The Israeli occupation has deprived us of the meanings of childhood and happiness. The Palestinian child had to put up with the pains and calamities of the catastrophe. That child, however, stood fast with his head high.

He criticized the donor states for not fulfilling their pledges, particularly the move to cut the pledged aid from $720 million to $125 million.

He asked the Palestinian people to provide the means of strength, stability, and secure life for the Palestinian children. [passage omitted]

Further on Child Conference

JN0504173195 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Yasir 'Arafat has said that 1 April [date as heard] of each year will be designated the Palestinian Child Day.

This came in a speech the president delivered this morning at the opening session of the Palestinian Child Conference at the al-Shawwa Center in Gaza.

President 'Arafat wished the Palestinian children further celebrations and festivals. He also confirmed that the Palestinian people endorse the Arab Child Charter and the World Child Charter.

The conference convenes under the supervision of the Palestinian National Authority in cooperation with UNICEF and the Swedish Government. The conference will discuss several papers presented by several National Authority ministries which aim at advancing the well-being of Palestinian children in all walks of life.

The conference is attended by several ministers from the National Authority and Palestinian and foreign experts.

Human Rights Lawyer Fired After Criticizing 'Arafat

TA0504120495 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Report by Jon Immanuel]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Raji al-Surani, the leading human rights lawyer in Gaza, has been fired from his job at the Gaza Center for Rights and Law, after criticizing Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's violations of law and civil rights.

Other Palestinian human rights groups condemned the dismissal. Hanan 'Ashrawi, director of the Commission for Citizens' Rights, said "it sends a message to all human rights organizations. There is an attempt at silencing and intimidation."

The center's four-man board of directors which dismissed al-Surani said the decision was taken for "professional reasons," that had been spelled out in a letter to him. Al-Surani said, however, that the letter did not clarify the reasons. "I think they didn't like what our center was doing," he said.

Al-Surani was arrested for a day in February after publishing a statement criticizing 'Arafat for setting up security courts, which al-Surani said violated 'Arafat's commitments to uphold law and human rights. He also claimed that political activists were arrested solely because of their party affiliation.

'Ashrawi said that she had no proof al-Surani's dismissal was ordered by 'Arafat, but added there had been "a smear campaign" against human rights activists that claimed they were "financed from abroad and were foreign agents."

Israel Reportedly Dumps Nuclear Waste in Gaza, Jericho

JN0504181095 Al-Dammam AL-YAWM in Arabic 3 Apr 95 p 1

[By Majdi 'Abd-al-'Al and Rabi' Ibrahim]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A Palestinian source in Cairo said that recent scientific studies by some Palestinian institutions have revealed that the Israeli authorities dumped about 52,000 tonnes of toxic nuclear waste in the Gaza Strip and areas close to Jericho during the period from 1967 until they were handed to the Palestinian Authority.

The source, who requested unanimity, said that the National Authority is seriously considering this information before submitting an urgent complaint to the International Atomic Energy Agency against Israel and demanding that a comprehensive inspection committees be set up to provide the required security guarantees for Palestinian citizens against the dangers of the Israeli nuclear waste.

In a separate development, AL-YAWM has learned that a number of specialized scientific quarters in Egypt are conducting studies on the expected dangers and effects to the Egyptian environment close to the Israeli border in order to take the required preventive measures to prevent the effects of nuclear waste from reaching Egypt. [passage omitted]

Israel's Move on Jerusalem Taxpayers Rejected

JN0504143895 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Authority's Finance Ministry has asked all Jerusalem residents who own businesses in the occupied West Bank to report only to the National Authority's tax departments.

In a statement issued today, the Finance Ministry says the Israeli occupation authorities' move to summon these Palestinian taxpayers to give them tax books, under the pretext that Israel's supervision applies to them, violates the letter and spirit of the agreement on early transfer of powers which was signed on 24 August 1994.

The Palestinian Authority's Finance Ministry stressed that it is the only party authorized to deal with Palestinian taxpayers in the field of taxes.

Israel Asked To Stop Excavations in West Bank Town

JN0504211495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] An official source at the Palestinian Information Ministry has denounced the Israeli occupation authorities' excavations in the Salfit area, deeming them a flagrant and serious violation of the principles of the peace process and the agreements signed with the PLO. Commenting on Israeli archaeologists' announcement of the discovery of a candles cave [magharat shumu'] in the Salfit area where the Ari'el settlement is located, the Palestinian source said: It is impermissible for the Ari'el settlement council to deal with the new discovery as an Israeli possession. The source added that exposing the Palestinian antiquities to the threat of theft is yet another indication of the Israeli Government's determination to create facts on the ground affecting the heart of the final solution, weakening the pillars of national independence, and shaking the Palestinian people's confidence in the future of the solution and the aspired peace.

The Information Ministry called on the Israeli Government to stop the excavations immediately and not to seize the Palestinian antiquities in keeping with international conventions and the principles of peace.

Representative Says Saudi Arabia Recognizes Passport

JN0404163595 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1400 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Mustafa al-Shaykh, the Palestinian representative in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, today said that King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, has issued instructions that the Palestinian passport be recognized. The Palestinian representative in Saudi Arabia added the following:

[Begin al-Shaykh recording] During the visit of brother President Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] to Saudi Arabia on 23 Ramadan [23 February] and his meeting with the custodian of the two holy mosques, his excellency submitted this passport to the custodian of the two holy mosques, who approved of dealing with this passport immediately. [passage omitted] The [Saudi] Foreign Ministry issued instructions to all Saudi entry points to recognize this passport. All entry points were provided with copies of this passport. All our Palestinian pilgrims, whether from the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, or 1948 Arab Israelis, will carry this passport, God willing, and will enter Saudi Arabia via the first ever Palestinian passport. [end recording]

Algeria

Dembri Hints at New Dialogue With Opposition

MS0604091595 London FINANCIAL TIMES in English 6 Apr 95 p 6

[Report by Roula Khalaf incorporating remarks by Foreign Minister Mr Mohamed Salah Dembri: "Algeria Hints at Talks Between Warring Factions"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] A renewal of political dialogue between warring factions in Algeria is at hand, Mr Mohamed Salah Dembri, Algeria's foreign minister, suggested yesterday.

"All ideas are acceptable as long as presented by Algerians in Algeria," Mr Dembri, the public face of the so-called conciliators within the Algerian regime, said in London.

Mr Dembri's official visit to the UK coincides with the beginning of consultations with political parties on planned presidential elections.

Since last November, the Algerian regime has stepped up its efforts to crush Islamist militants who have been fighting security forces since 1992, when the government cancelled elections that the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

President Liamine Zeroual, meanwhile, has insisted he will hold presidential elections by the end of the year and invited political parties to contribute ideas to the preparations.

Opposition parties, while convinced elections in a climate of terror are a futile exercise, are seizing the opportunity to relaunch a national dialogue by presenting proposals for a way out of the crisis.

After meeting the president on Sunday, officials from the National Liberation Front (FLN), Algeria's former ruling party, issued a letter proposing that serious talks include the FIS and aim for a ceasefire as a first step.

This proposal is based on a national contract signed by opposition parties, including the FIS, in Rome in January. The FLN is said to have met the other signatories to the national contract before seeing the president.

The Rome platform was strongly rejected by the government as foreign interference. It has, however, repeatedly received kinder words from Mr Dembri, who said it included positive elements such as commitment to democracy and alternation of power—all shared by the presidency.

Mr Dembri suggested yesterday that the FLN's initiative and others would be taken seriously as long as they were put within the framework of presidential elections. Hinting at certain flexibility, he said discussions were aimed at fixing a date for presidential elections but the ways of reaching the elections were debatable.

"What is happening now and it is a good thing is that ideas are being presented," he said. "It matters little if the approaches are different, as long as it is to reach the same objective. What is essential is for the president to gain assurances with regard to a return to the electoral process."

Mr Dembri's portrayal of a flexible army-backed Algerian government will be put to test in the coming months, as hardline and moderate generals attempt to reach a consensus on how to react to the opposition's renewed proposals.

Urges 'National Detente'

NC0604082695 London MBC Television in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In an exclusive interview with our correspondent in London, Hasan Zaytuni, Algerian Foreign Minister Mohamed Dembri said the Algerian Government believes in dialogue and said the current consultations with President Liamine Zeroual aim to achieve national detente.

[Begin recording] [Dembri] The dialogue is open anew. There are consultations on how to best organize the presidential elections and to define the horizon after the presidential elections. This is a work program that asks every Algerian who is sincere about and who loves his homeland to make a contribution in this regard and to adopt national detente and reconciliation as a goal and dialogue as a program.

[Zaytuni] Is there a possibility of reconciling President Liamine Zeroual's ideas and the Algerian political opposition's ideas, particularly as you have mentioned that the Rome agreement has some positive points?

[Dembri] The authority under President Liamine Zeroual has an important role—achieving national detente on the level of the whole political spectrum. He invites all parties, all fronts and movements, and all national figures to participate in drawing the future horizon and at the same time strengthening the work to achieve national detente. [end recording]

Prime Minister on Economy, Security, Elections

LD0504225395

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic at 2000 GMT on 2 April carries a new television program in French called "Perspectives." It is a forum for debate with senior officials on political, economic, and social problems, and on solutions likely to help shape a way out of the crisis. The program will be carried around 2000 GMT every Sunday.

Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi is the first guest of "Perspectives." He is interviewed by Mr. Hocine Mezali of Algerian television, who leads the debate; Mr. Chadli Boufrioua of Algerian radio channel 3 in French; and Mr. Abderrahmane Mahmoudi, manager of the paper

HEBDO LIBERE. The program is in French because, as is mentioned in the beginning, the program is meant primarily for Algerians and other viewers abroad to give them a correct picture of the situation in Algeria which is often distorted by hostile foreign press. The debate is in a large hall, which looks like a television studio, with senior officials present as spectators.

Mr. Sifi, answering questions, begins by recalling his modest family origins: "A modest Algerian from a modest family where I learned the reality of poverty and also the meaning of solidarity, dignity, honor, and humility. I learned also the fundamental values of Islam, the Islam which means mutual help, compassion, respect for adults by children and adolescents, respect of others in general; the Islam which means love of God and His prophet. I was a pupil of a wonderful man who affected the history of Algeria and deeply affected me: Cheikh Larbi Tebessi, may God bless his soul. He taught me that Islam is science, modernism, progress, and above all Islam is transcending human contradictions, whether social, economical, or political."

Sifi then recalls his vast experience in state affairs, a veteran civil servant, and an engineer by profession who has held senior posts over the last thirty years. He says he is in his current position not by ambition, but by patriotism to help extricate the country from the crisis.

Asked about how he would assess the progress of his now nine-month old government program, Mr. Sifi says: "On the economic level we have managed to stem recession. The country has been witnessing a recession for several years, and by the end of this year, 1995, recession will come to an end. We are not on the decline any more. I can also say that in the framework of our FMI-backed program, we were expecting an inflation of the order of 42 percent, however, we have not exceeded 29 percent, while countries such as the socialist countries, which have tested the market economy, are recording three-figure inflation rates and two-figure decline rates. On the other hand, as regards foreign exchange reserves, I would say that we have improved the situation, since we now have enough reserves for three months of imports. As opposed to 1993 when reserves covered only one month of imports. Likewise, one notes on the ground that the country is adequately supplied, that we have enough stocks of certain consumer goods to cover three to six months, that widely consumed products can be found everywhere, that consumer goods can be found everywhere."

To a question on whether one can speak now about an economic take-off in the country, Prime Minister Sifi says: "One may consider that the economic take-off has begun, and in certain sectors and aspects one can even say that we are well in advance of forecasts. Regarding the liberalization of foreign trade, we are fully in. Foreign trade has been liberalized, initiative has been freed, the management of this trade is done essentially by banks according to certain solely economic and commercial criteria. In other domains, things are clearly improving, inflation is diminishing. As an example, in the last five or six months, average inflation for the year was 13 percent, while in the preceding six months inflation with the same calculation was 26 percent. We believe that we will halt this inflation and arrive at a 10 to 15 percent inflation rate."

Asked about the need for stability to ensure development, Mr. Sifi says: "I have said—and this is still valid—that stability is one of the conditions for growth and development. We are all in a hurry to get out of this situation, and I would say that if we get out of this political and security-related crisis, an economic boom is around the corner for Algeria. However, despite the fact that the situation has not adequately stabilized as we would have wished—because we wish that complete stability prevails—tangible economic and social success has indeed been recorded."

To a question on the parallel economic activity in the country called "trabendo"—the illegal import of consumer goods made abroad and dumped in the Algerian market—Mr. Sifi first stresses the numerous development and investment projects being realized in the country, with good prospects for employment, and then says: "It is true that cement, cooking oil, and tomato puree were smuggled in by trabendo means. But I give examples: A year ago cement cost 300 dinars at Trabendists', and today it is sold freely on the market at only 190 dinars, and it is available everywhere." Mr. Sifi gives others examples showing that contrary to what is believed, the Trabendo phenomenon is not causing prices to rise.

After a long exchange in which Mr. Sifi recalls the circumstances of the rescheduling of the national debt and related problems such as investments and the conditions of their success, Chadli Boufaroua raises the issue of security in the country. After outlining the current setting of conflict and security in the world, citing the examples of Bosnia, Chechnya, Rwanda and others, Boufaroua asks Mr. Sifi whether one can talk of a civil war in Algeria. The prime minister says: "It is foreigners who are talking about civil war in Algeria. They talk so much about it that they seem to wish it to exist. I think, one should acknowledge, understand, and look at the reasons behind this and in whose interest this is so. We are going through a difficult, unacceptable, and intolerable situation. Even single killing by the hands of terrorism is something intolerable, but we are not in a civil war and this is thanks to the Algerians, thanks to this brave people who are resisting. How can one talk of civil war while 7 million pupils and students are going to school every day? How can one talk of civil war while 4 million workers go to their place of work every day, that all officials are present in their posts, including the members of the government who are in the field? Civil war is not the only subject that has been highlighted, but there is the desire to divide the Algerians by labelling some as reconcilers, some as eradicators, some as Arab-speakers, some as French-speakers. One should ask oneself about the origin of this. Is this in the interest of Algeria?

"I will not say that there are no social wounds that we, as Algerians, should heal. We need all our citizens. Algeria needs all its children. We have to pay attention to this aspect. Now concerning this press campaign—and I do not know why one should not call it a press campaign—it aims at destabilizing the country. These are people who come here and see that the country is functioning. This is the first "Perspectives" program. We have to get used to the fact and be aware that we are addressing our community abroad. I will say that our community abroad has also been the subject of a campaign of disinformation. Fortunately, today it has its own TV. It can see that this country is functioning, that economic, trade and institutional activities exist and that everything is relatively working well."

In addition, Sifi recalls the importance of the Mediterranean region and the role of Algeria in the Maghreb.

Asked whether he will be a candidate in the presidential election, Sifi says: "First of all, I would like to say that I understand that public opinion and the press are eager to know who will run for the presidential elections. I think this is perfectly normal, as it happens elsewhere. You put this question to me like you would put it to any citizen, as you said, but you put it to me as prime minister."

After recalling that he became prime minister more out of necessity than personal ambition, Mr. Sifi says: "I have no personal ambition regarding power. This government is neutral."

Hocine Mezali then insists on having a straight answer and repeats again his question to which Mr. Sifi says: "As I told you, I have no ambition for power. I agreed to become prime minister because I did not want to be a traitor to my country. When the head of state asked me, I immediately thought I had no choice. So, it was more out of necessity than personal choice. I answered the call of the country from the bottom of my heart."

Still on the subject of the elections, Mahmoudi asks Mr. Sifi why the government has not launched a pre-election campaign to raise the awareness of the population on the importance of these elections. Was this a deliberate policy or did the government think the time was not ripe for such a move? Mr. Sifi says: "I must confess this is one of the shortcomings of the government. As far as I am concerned, I am in favor of starting the campaign as early as possible. This was planned, but there is some delay. However, as far as the preparations are concerned, things are progressing very well and I would say that the citizens are aware of this and may I ask Mr Abderrahmane Mahmoudi whether he received his voting card?" Mr. Mahmoudi says no, laughter follows, and Mr. Sifi continues by saying: "The cards have been distributed and the work is progressing very well. I can tell you that some provinces are ready, completely ready for the holding of the presidential elections." Boufaroua interrupts to say that the campaign of explanation is already underway on radio, to which Mr. Sifi says: "TV and press are still lagging behind, but the radio has done well so far."

Boufaroua reminds Mr. Sifi that he once said that the main condition for the success of the presidential election is stability. He then asks Mr. Sifi to provide details on the security situation in the country. After distinguished between what he calls preparing the ground and stability, Mr. Sifi says: "There is no such thing as absolute and perfect stability in any country. To improve things in such a way that elections will be held in security, that all guarantees could be given so the Algerian people could express themselves freely and clearly—we are doing all this. We hope and we are convinced that we will manage to provide all the conditions."

Boufaroua asks whether the government will encourage the establishment of private radio stations. Mr. Sifi says: "I am not against private radio stations in principle. We started with publicly-owned radio stations because it is easier, but at the same time, we look at the issue of private radio stations. Having said this, there are conditions and laws included either in the present code of press and broadcasting or in the renovated code in the future." Mr. Sifi continues on about the need to encourage the Algerian press not just for its own sake, but for the sake of providing the citizen with accurate and objective information.

The discussion then turns to the Berber language issue with Mezali reminding Mr. Sifi that there is an ongoing strike by pupils and students in the Berber region of Kabylie. They are demanding the official recognition of the language and its introduction into the national curriculum. Mr. Mezali then asks Mr. Sifi what is his personal position on this issue. Mr. Sifi says: "I think my position is known in the sense that the Berber language is a demand I consider as legitimate. They said Tamazight (Berber) in schools and I said yes Tamazight in schools! I took all the measures so Tamazight could be taught. Following the government's methods, which are based on consultation, I did everything to get in touch with all the parties concerned in order to give their opinion and contribute and participate in its introduction in school curriculum. I also warned against the risk of political manipulation, which could do a lot of harm, especially to our children, pupils, students, and pupils' parents. I am ready and open to any suggestion for fair and feasible solutions and take all the measures, to face up to the challenge, because the Algerian is capable of facing up to challenges."

Mr. Sifi links the issue of the Berber language to the Berber identity to which he says he belongs.

Asked what he thinks about the French presidential campaign, Mr. Sifi says: "We follow these elections as we have vested interests in France. We follow them and we have our own opinion, just as the French leaders are following the events in Algeria because of their interests. Now since we ask for no interference in our affairs, likewise, we should not interfere in the affairs of others. We have a partner facing us which is France and we will work with France as an important partner. Whatever the government, it will be the government of France. As the French do not deal with individuals but with governments, we will deal with governments."

Asked to give his last words to the Algerian community abroad, Mr. Sifi says he will repeat what he said on 19 March in Jijel, east of Algeria: "The blood that was shed and is still being shed cannot be justified by any political struggle or any religion. It is only four years before we enter the 21st century. Those who love their country should get ready to work hard. There is only one ideology, which is work; work that should mobilize all the children of this country. Let's be worthy of our ancestors. The world is watching us. Algeria needs all its children. In the name of God, the Merciful and the Compassionate: Verily never will God change the condition of a people until they change themselves."

Predicts Economic Improvement

AU0404111695 Munich FOCUS in German 3 Apr 95 p 304

[Report on interview with Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi by Amir Taheri; place and date not given: "Now We Have To Pay"]

[FBIS Translated Text] In an interview with FOCUS, Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi, 54, particularly stressed his opinion on four basic questions:

1. The Algerian nation:

"There is no prefabricated Algerian identity. Anyone who wants to force one on the people is doomed to failure. Algeria cannot only be Arab, Islamic, or Berber. St. Augustine was an Algerian like Emperor Septimius Severus and Caracalla. We are Berbers who have assimilated Phoenicians, Romans, Arabs, Turks, and the French.

2. The government:

I head an interim government with two tasks: to get the economy going and to hold elections. In 1994 we recorded our first economic growth in six years. Next year it will increase even more.

3. The main problem:

For almost two decades we lived beyond our means. Now we have to pay the bill. Algeria needs 4 million new jobs and, in addition, 3 million new apartments.

4. The opposition:

We are prepared for talks with all opposition parties and opposition members who renounce violence and accept the republican system of our Constitution. We are even prepared to form a coalition with the other parties to monitor the forthcoming presidential, parliamentary, and municipal elections.

Commerce Minister Discusses Economic Issues

LD0504140595

[FBIS Editorial Report] Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic at 1102 GMT on 5 April broadcasts a 56-minute interview with Commerce Minister Sassi Aziza during the "Transformations" program. The discussion focuses on pricing policy, state subsidies, market supplies, competition, and the transition to a market economy.

Aziza acknowledges that the state allocated 17.2 billion dinars for subsidies in 1995, down from 24 billion in 1994. He says that the money saved from a reduction in state subsidies for basic foods, such as wheat, sugar, and milk, will be used to reinforce the "social safety net" which includes various types of allowances and income support.

The minister also reaffirms that price increases will be gradual and that the aim will be to achieve a "real price" policy in order to develop production and promote competitiveness among local producers.

In reply to a question on an effective supply of domestic markets, the minister says that with the lifting of all restrictions on imports since January, supplies have been adequate and that the state spent "about $2.5 billion in 1994" to import basic foods such as wheat, sugar, and milk. He adds that private operators will be encouraged to be more involved in the import of essential foods and goods. He also says that the decision of foreign airlines to suspend their flights to Algeria has not affected supplies and imports since "goods are still arriving to our ports" by ship.

The minister also talks about the need to promote and protect national production by lifting restrictions on pricing, within reason, to bolster competition, and controlling quality of imported goods. The minister says that by developing national production Algeria will be strengthening its competitiveness abroad, and he adds in this respect that exports should not be restricted to oil and gas.

Aziza confirms the establishment of an insurance company for exports to protect Algerian exporters should their customers fail to pay them or their goods be lost or damaged. The minister outlines efforts to set up a data bank which will include information on companies and their activities. He also emphasizes the importance of subscribing to international data banks to be aware of potential markets and play an effective part in them.

In reply to a question on the difference between the state of the market economy in Algeria and the neighboring countries, the minister says: "we are in a transitional period" and "we need time to see a change in attitudes and time for the public administration to adjust to the new system."

Finally, criticized by the interviewer for not announcing price increases for bread or milk well in advance, the minister justifies the ministry's decision not to give an early warning to the public by saying that the aim is "to prevent any speculation and hoarding" that might precede the price increase.

Security Service: 12 'Criminals' 'Eliminated'

LD0504124995 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A statement released by the security services today says that in operations carried out yesterday in Douar Boudjemaa, Hassi Boucif Municipality, Oran Province, security forces eliminated 12 criminals, including two chiefs of terrorist groups. The statement also says that some arms and ammunition as well as homemade bombs have been recovered.

Identities of Leaders Released

LD0504193095 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1830 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] A security services' statement said today that the identities of the leaders of the two criminal groups eliminated last night near the city of Oran are known. They are Zarsaoui Boubaker, alias Abi Mousaab, who was active in west Algeria; and Mehedi Abderrahmane, alias Abi Abdallah, leader of a group that was active in Oran Province. [passage omitted]

FLN Confirms Nonparticipation in Elections

LD0504134695 Paris Radio France International in French 0630 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] In Algeria, the FLN [National Liberation Front] is proposing that a serious dialogue be initiated with participation by the Islamic Salvation Front [FIS].

The former party has presented President Zeroual with a number of proposals including in particular a call for an end to the use of arms. A program has also been drawn up by the FLN. These proposals fall within the framework of the round of consultations launched by the Algerian head of state. Jerome Bastion reports:

[Bastion] The FLN is the first of the eight signatories—which include the FIS—to an opposition platform for a return to civil peace which has agreed to respond to President Zeroual's invitation. The head of state's consultations are aimed at preparing, along with all of the country's political forces, the organization of presidential elections scheduled for the end of 1995, to which the signatories of the national contract in Rome are fiercely opposed. The FLN, a link for the opposition between the democrats of the FFS [Socialist Forces' Front] and the fundamentalists of the FIS, has taken advantage of the opportunity to issue a call for an end to the use of arms—thus a kind of bilateral truce—and is proposing that a serious dialogue be initiated with the FIS from the end of the current month for all violence to cease. Then, suggests FLN Secretary-General Abdelhamid Mehri, the parties should reflect on a return to constitutional and institutional legitimacy, a process which the signatories to the national contract would like to launch with legislative elections. However, the FLN head noted, as did Ahmed Ben Bella, the former president, that there is still no question of falling in with the government plan for presidential elections in the current context.

Government To Privatize Water Utilities

LD0504205295 Algiers ENTV Television Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to the new government policy, the water resources will no longer be under the public sector's monopoly and will come within the sphere of competition and investments in a way to improve quality and quantity of the water supply. This is what Cherif Rahmani, minister of equipment and urban planning, said in the following:

[Begin Rahmani recording] So as to comply with the citizen's request, we wanted to give them a number of services and thus citizens will choose between a number of services, private and public contractors and companies and we will open the market for them within the framework of competition. Thus, anyone who wants to manage the water issue can come and enter this market. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Human Rights Leader Discusses Violations

MM0404095195 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 31 Mar 95 p 4

[Interview with Ali Yahya Abdennour, president of the League for the Defense of Human Rights, by Camille al-Tawil in London; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Tawil] How far have the violations of human rights committed by both sides in Algeria—the security forces and the armed groups—gone?

[Abdennour] The violations of human rights were actually begun by the regime. It was the regime that suspended the legitimate elections on 26 December 1991. It was the regime also that arrested thousands of people without trial under administrative detention warrants and placed them in concentration camps in the desert where the temperature reached 50 centigrade.

It was also the regime that staged the 11 January 1992 coup d'etat, because it could not accept seeing the FIS [Islamic Salvation Front] attain power legitimately. The matter was put before the people in legislative elections, but the regime refused to accept the results of these elections and wanted to cling to power, thereby rejecting democracy.

I wish to affirm that the greater majority of the detainees in the state's prisons have been subjected to torture and all sorts of harassment. We have seen the marks of torture on many prisoners. Furthermore, death sentences were passed against them on the basis of confessions they were coerced to make. Some of them had not even heard before of the things they had to confess to. They were ordered to sign confessions that had been written in advance. The sentences also used to come from the Supreme Executive Authority and not from the Judiciary. The judges only read the sentences which the regime asks to be imposed.

Our country's Constitution for the year 1989 called for the separation of the legislative, executive, and judicial powers. But the executive authority deviated from that. For it had the power to relieve judges of their duties if it did not like the sentences they passed. Hence under such circumstances, the judges could not pass sentences based on their own convictions. For the sentences used to come from above. The best example of this state of affairs can be seen from the sentences passed on Shaykhs Abbasi Madani and Ali Belhadj. The sentences on them came from the Executive Authority and all the judges did was just to read them. Some of the accused used to complain to the judges, telling them that they had been tortured, but they (the judges) did not bother to call for doctors to examine them. This is something that is contrary to the law.

[Al-Tawil] You have spoken about the violation committed by the authorities. But what about the violations committed by the armed groups?

[Abdennour] "Terrorists" and "acts of terrorism," are the words being used. But during the Algerian War of Liberation, France used to call the Mujahidin such as Ait Ahmed and Ali Abdennour terrorists. The true description of what is actually happening should be that there is an armed opposition against the executive authority and this opposition is accused of being unlawful. True, this armed opposition too has committed violations of human rights, of which we do not approve. We refuse to see this opposition kill women and children. We condemn these acts, which actually were being committed. But we do not see precisely what is happening on the ground, so we cannot say for certain who committed the acts of murder which we naturally condemn and denounce.

We, as well as the FIS, have called for the formation of a committee to investigate the acts of murder and ascertain who stands behind them: the armed groups or the security forces. But the authority rejected our call.

We believe that the people have fallen victim to such acts by both sides. The executive authority believes that the people living in the rural areas support the armed groups. Because the armed groups carry out an operation against the security forces and vanish quickly. By the time the security forces arrive at the scene of the operation, naturally somewhat late as they come in mechanized vehicles, the attackers have fled. Thereupon, the security men begin interrogating the people to find out what has happened and who has rendered support to the armed groups. But when they receive no response or hear any confessions from the youth of the region where the operation took place, they kill them or transfer them to prisons.

[Al-Tawil] Do you mean that the executive authority executes citizens?

[Abdennour] Yes. They take them out of their homes and shoot them. This has happened at Bleida, Jijel, and Erzilan [as transliterated] as well as in several areas in the east of the country. The youths who carry out the operations against the security forces do not stay in their homes after carrying out their attacks, but flee to the mountains.

[Al-Tawil] How does the executive authority deal with you?

[Abdennour] It does not recognize the League for the Defense of Human Rights and it refuses to cooperate with us, and accuses us of cooperation with the Islamic Front. But, as a reminder only, I wish to say that I have defended communists and Berbers as well. For example, I defended Saeed Saadi just as I defended Madani and Belhadj. Our defense of human rights is not based on any race or creed.

[Al-Tawil] Have you provided the regime with lists of human rights violations?

[Abdennour] The Ministry of the Interior asked us to supply it with names. I told it: You have thousands of names. These names number between 40,000 and 48,000.

[Al-Tawil] Some Islamic groups have been speaking about human rights violations committed against women in Algerian prisons. Do you have any information about this matter?

[Abdennour] There are violations of women's rights. Women have been murdered at Bleida, Jijel, and Erzilan and other places. There are women detained in prison who are in their fifties and sixties. Some women have been detained just because their sons were hiding on the mountains.

[Al-Tawil] What do you know about the events that took place at the Serkadji prison ?

[Abdennour] The regime does not say anything about what has actually happened at the Serkadji or Berrouaguia prisons. There are numerous rumors but it is impossible to verify. It was because of this that we asked for the formation of an independent committee to investigate what has happened. The regime says the victims numbered 96, but the lawyers who have met with some prisoners have heard that the detained Islamists numbered 864 while the rest of the prisoners numbered 520. They have also heard that some prisoners were moved to hospitals.

According to information we have obtained, the prisoners, including Abdelkader Hachani, had been expecting such events as have happened at Berrouaguia. Persons sentenced to death were brought to this prison, while those sentenced to death in Algiers are usually kept in prisons outside the capital that are equipped with special places for the carrying out of the execution sentences should the president of the state refuse to grant them pardon. Persons sentenced to life imprisonment were also brought to the Sirkaji [as transliterated] prison. In view of these indications, Hachani told his solicitor that he expected something was about to happen.

[Al-Tawil] Have you met with Abdelhak La'aydah [as transliterated] (former leader of the armed group)?

[Abdennour] Some lawyers have met with him, but I was not one of them, because I refuse to plead cases before special courts.

[Al-Tawil] Do you have any information about the two leaders of the Islamic Front?

[Abdennour] Madani and Belhadj were transferred to a place in the capital, Algiers, last September. The executive authority wanted them to issue calls for the cessation of the fighting. It asked Madani to address an appeal to this effect over the television. But making such an appeal demands the holding of meetings by the FIS leaderships: those inside the country and those outside it, those in prison and those engaged in clandestine operations. But the executive authority refused to permit the holding of such meetings in freedom. It aimed at creating rifts between the FIS political and military wings. All that Madani and Belhadj had asked for was to be allowed to meet with members of the Shura Council. For is it possible for the two men to assume responsibility for such an act in isolation from the leadership? When the meeting failed to materialize and consequently Madani and Belhadj did not issue the call for the cessation of fighting, they were transferred by the executive authority to an unspecified location where they were kept under house arrest or to an unspecified prison. It also banned other shaykhs such as Ali Jadi and Abdelkader Boukhamkham from carrying out any political activity.

[Al-Tawil] What do you think of the elections scheduled to be held at the end of the year?

[Abdennour] They will not be elections. Because all the audiovisual and written media belong to the regime, and so does the administration too. Some time ago, we held a press conference but the official information media, which repeatedly wage campaigns against us, did not report it. How can one say that true elections can take place in such a climate?

Egypt

Reportage on Husni Mubarak's Visit to Washington

Holds News Conference With Clinton

NC0504205195 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1920 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Report on news conference by President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton with international correspondents in Washington "at the end of their talks"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 5 Apr (MENA)—U.S. President Bill Clinton welcomed President Husni Mubarak and stressed the deep friendship between Egypt and the United States. At the beginning of a joint news conference with President Mubarak at the end of their talks, President Clinton noted that President Mubarak was the first world leader to visit Washington after he assumed power in the United States.

President Clinton said: I am very happy to welcome President Mubarak to the White House. He has been a great friend and partner of the United States for 14 years. Clinton said he began his tour of the Middle East by visiting Egypt and President Mubarak because Egypt is a basic factor for stability in the region. He stressed that had it not been for President Mubarak's arduous efforts in the past few years, we would not have achieved peace. He noted President Mubarak's persistence and efforts to achieve peace and said: We are looking forward to his role in the years to come.

President Clinton said: We need to expand our joint relations to reform the Egyptian economy. He noted: During Vice President Al Gore's visit to Egypt a dialogue began with President Mubarak on development; today we discussed joint relations. He pointed out that private sector Egyptian and U.S. businessmen met today to build strong relations and increase U.S. investment in Egypt, because stability in Egypt means stability in the entire region. We are looking forward to great regional development. We also held a dialogue on achieving these goals in the region. He stressed that Egypt and the United States realize that threats to security and peace in the region mean a threat to the whole world.

President Clinton said that to make the Middle East a zone free of all weapons of mass destruction and to achieve security and a comprehensive peace, we must make sure the nuclear treaty is honored by all parties and will continue as long as possible. He said: President Mubarak told me that we can achieve a comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We have worked together to achieve this goal. Our goal now, he said, is that the United States and Egypt maintain their partnership.

President Husni Mubarak said: I have met for the second time with my dear friend President Bill Clinton to continue our efforts and serve the interests of our countries. We have discussed all issues of common concern with a spirit of friendship, amity, and mutual trust. He said: Our views were similar regarding these issues and we will continue our commitment to strengthen the framework of peace and security in the world and advance cooperation among nations.

President Mubarak emphasized that we must not allow the enemies of peace to jeopardize our previous successes and that all forms of violence must end. Our goal, he said, is to end conflicts and we must do our best to remove all potential threats so that there can be hope for peace and a future in this overstrained region.

President Mubarak added: In 1990 I called for rendering the Middle East an area free of weapons of mass destruction and this makes all the region's nations, including Israel, feel secure. I met with President Clinton and we discussed this issue. We still maintain our stance on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as we are one of the founding nations of this Treaty.

President Mubarak said: We feel concerned about some nuclear programs that might exist in our region and we must remove all sources of threats to the region.

President Mubarak explained that this is the practical implementation of the principle of globalism. Everyone must realize that this serves all their goals, as no one can have control over the proliferation of these lethal weapons and the destruction they cause.

President Mubarak said: For the sake of our common interest, we suggest that Egypt and all Arab countries, and perhaps Israel, work to achieve this goal along with the United States under the leadership of President Bill Clinton.

President Mubarak added: Our relations are very good and there is mutual trust between us to achieve peace, security, growth, and development. President Clinton and Vice President Al Gore have helped us in constructing a new concept of this joint relationship.

He went on: We will promote these ties through investment, trade, and development. We are determined to make this plan a success and we will pursue our efforts for peace. Our economy is now open for businessmen more than ever. The president asserted that we are committed to achieving economic reform.

He said: I would like to thank President Clinton for his hospitality, for the understanding we received from all Americans, and for the renewed assertion of solidarity, friendship, and cooperation.

President Clinton answered a question on whether President Mubarak had informed him that Egypt will sign the Treaty and stop inciting other Arab countries not to sign it. President Clinton said he believes that the implementation of the Treaty must be collective. He added: We also believe that the Middle East must be free of weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, biological, or chemical.

Clinton said in his news conference that this cannot happen overnight and that Egypt and Israel in their capacity as the first countries that achieved peace in the Middle East must work together. He noted that he is encouraged by Egyptian Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and his Israeli counterpart Shim'on Peres' intention to meet soon in Paris to discuss this issue.

Clinton added that the indefinite extension of the Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] is bound to encourage the states that have not yet joined the treaty and that continue to feel concern about their security to join the treaty.

Responding to a question about Egypt's stand on the NPT extension, President Husni Mubarak said: I would like to tell you something about this treaty. In 1968, we were among the 18 states that took part in formulating the draft of the NPT. We support this treaty and we know it is there to serve the interests of the entire world within the framework of the new world order. We also know that it is of extreme importance that all sides join this treaty. We are making strenuous efforts for this purpose. We will never withdraw from this treaty.

The correspondent of the Israeli newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT addressed the following question to President Mubarak: While peace between Jordan and Israel is getting warmer, the peace between Egypt and Israel, which is the first of its kind, is still cold. Will you visit Israel for the first time so that you can personally work to make this peace warmer and so that we can forge ahead together? President Mubarak said: Jordan's population is about three million while Egypt's population is about 60 million. Jordan and Israel live together. At least we have been sincere for a long time. [sentence as received] President Mubarak added: Many Palestinians live in Jordan and Israel. Without the peace initiated by the late President Anwar al-Sadat, I believe that neither Jordan nor the Palestinians would have had enough courage or the necessary vision to start the peace process with this state.

Continuing, President Mubarak said: The peace is not cold as has been said by some people. This peace is often influenced by certain statements that come from here and there. Believe me when I say that cooperation between Egypt and Israel is much bigger now.

A question was raised, that since the issue of national security tops the lists of priorities in both Egypt and the United States, how can the United States help Egypt safeguard its national security at a time when nuclear weapons are a few kilometers from its borders? President Clinton said: I must repeat what I said earlier, to the effect that Egypt's security can get the best services from the United States in the following ways: First, efforts must be made in general to free the entire region from all the weapons of mass destruction. This can not be achieved overnight, but it should be our objective and we should work to achieve it. Second, a comprehensive peace should be established in the Middle East. If we succeed in solving all the pending problems among some Middle East countries, this would augment Egypt's national security. Third, economic ties should be consolidated to grant the necessary reward to the reform policy being pursued by President Mubarak and his government and so that the sons of the Egyptian people will also feel secure with the opportunities that are made available to them.

President Mubarak said: I believe I agree with everything that President Clinton has said and I have nothing to add.

The following question was addressed to the two presidents by the Egyptian television correspondent: The United States has played a pivotal role in the peace process right from the start. What, in your opinion, are the steps that should be taken by all the concerned parties to consolidate the peace process, particularly since elections in Israel and the United States are approaching? President Mubarak answered: As for the peace process, you know that there is a Declaration of Principles that concerns the Palestinians in the first place. We believe that the Palestinian problem represents the core of the Middle East issue. Perhaps the implementation of this Declaration has been rather slow in view of the terrorist operations and because the Israelis are trying to achieve their own security. What I proposed and discussed with Yasir 'Arafat and Rabin is that they both, as well as their authorities, should cooperate to curb all these terrorist operations. If we submit to these people they will feel that they have scored a success and the entire peace process will fail.

Mubarak added that both sides fully realize this. I hope they will make progress in the implementation of the Declaration of Principles.

President Mubarak said: As for the Syrians, I know they are currently participating in talks here in Washington at the ambassadorial level. I hope progress will be made. I am confident that President al-Asad wants to settle the problem and reach a peace agreement with Israel.

President Clinton said: I agree with all the points mentioned. I want to elaborate on two points. Regarding the Palestinians, while we and they are trying to solve the security problem, it is important that we work to increase economic investment in Gaza and Jericho so that the people will have new opportunities and alternatives to the destructive activity carried out by many people.

As for the Syrians, I agree with what President Mubarak has stated. I believe that both President al-Asad and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin want peace. It is important that they reach an agreement soon for the reasons already mentioned. Let me say something that is perhaps a repetition of what I said in my opening statement at this conference. I believe we have a good opportunity to move forward in implementing the Declaration of Principles despite all the difficulties facing the Palestinians. I also believe we have a good opportunity to achieve an agreement between Syria and Israel. I do not believe that either one of these two objectives can be achieved without the active participation of the United States or Egypt.

Asked whether it is acceptable that Israel sign the Treaty some time, when comprehensive peace is achieved in the Middle East, President Clinton said: I believe the Egyptian president must answer this question and say what is acceptable from his point of view. As for my own stance, it is that all states should join the Treaty and that the Middle East should be free of all weapons of mass destruction, be they nuclear, chemical, or biological. This objective will be easier to attain if the Treaty is extended indefinitely. This is the U.S. stance, a stance I believe is more correct. I also believe that President Mubarak has his own views and convictions. He is absolutely correct in saying that Egypt has always supported the Treaty from the beginning. President Mubarak can answer for himself.

President Mubarak said: As I have already stated, Egypt was among the first states to sign the Treaty. The issue is that there is peace in the region. Egypt signed a peace treaty. We are living in peace with Israel. Jordan also signed a peace agreement. The Israeli-Palestinian Declaration of Principles is being implemented. Syria is heading toward an agreement. Therefore, everything is proceeding along the path of peace in the region. Therefore, I do not believe Israel will need any nuclear weapons. We are not asking Israel to join the Treaty now or tomorrow but we want to know what will happen to Egypt's national security. I believe the Egyptian and Israeli foreign ministers will meet in Paris tomorrow. I hope the gap in the stances of the two countries will be narrowed with the help of the United States.

Asked whether he believes there is no strong U.S. participation in the Middle East in view of the prevailing feeling that no concrete progress is being made, President Clinton said: First, much is being done. More has been achieved in the past two years than has been achieved since the Camp David Agreement 15 years ago. We have achieved much. We have reached halfway down the road to a comprehensive settlement. The U.S. secretary of state has just returned from the Middle East. The U.S. vice president went to Egypt twice in the past six months. I will send another envoy today. I have been in constant touch with President al-Asad and Prime Minister Rabin, who visited me here recently. Thus, we are working seriously and actively. But I feel concerned. Frankly speaking, I agree with part of your question. A month ago we felt there was a new incentive for work, a serious approach, and a new feeling that both sides are really committed to trying to solve problems soon. I am more optimistic now. I believe we must continue the work. People must know that we have a limited time to reach a solution before other factors emerge.

A correspondent addressed the following to President Clinton: Within the context of the serious efforts being conducted by the U.S. Administration for the sake of the peace between the Palestinians and Israelis, I believe you could help the Palestinian Authority build the basic utilities. Can President Clinton and President Mubarak, too, urge the Israeli Government and Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to end the closure of the Gaza Strip and allow more Palestinian jobseekers to enter Israeli territory as a means to guarantee the flow of more money into Gaza and the West Bank and to help promote the Palestinians' economic conditions? President Clinton answered: I believe this has become the problem facing Washington with regard to the Israelis and Palestinians. When the borders were reopened, Israel became more at risk from acts of terrorism, and when innocent people were killed this prompted efforts to strengthen support for peace in Israel.

President Clinton added: But when the borders were closed the Palestinians' income dropped tragically and the young people became more prepared to carry out acts of terrorism. It is therefore a problem that cannot be solved. I believe it is a difficult problem too. It is obvious that the enemies of peace realize this and are trying to exploit it whether the borders are closed or open. I believe they benefited from it. I wish I had a simple answer to this question. We are working to solve this problem. We discussed it with the Israelis but it represents the most difficult aspect of the peace process.

Continuing, the U.S. President said: We sympathize with the Palestinians in Gaza as far as this problem is concerned. The instability in Gaza is impeding the implementation of U.S.- Palestinian investment projects there. We understand Rabin's position and we realize what happened in Israel following these terrorist activities. We also realize the feelings of those people who believed that peace could create a different life for them. I realize it is the most difficult part of the problem. But we are determined to find a solution to it.

Commenting, President Mubarak said: I have had in-depth discussions with President Clinton about this. We know the situation is more difficult in Gaza and Jericho, because people have been prevented from entering [Israel for work]. My question is: How could these people live there? This complicates the entire situation. This is why I repeatedly contacted Rabin and 'Arafat. They must work out a way to make the people enter or else they will become terrorists, as President Clinton said. We must find a solution to the problem, because the difficulties will continue and the terrorist groups will feel that they have achieved their objectives.

Mubarak was asked by an Egyptian correspondent about Egypt's good record in curbing terrorism in Egypt. The correspondent asked: In what way could the neighboring countries in Africa and the Middle East benefit from the Egyptian experience? President Mubarak said: Every country has its own traditions and ways of life and dealing with problems. We curbed all the terrorist operations, largely by using legal means. We do not violate the law. As for our neighbors, each has its own personality and various conditions. Eash has its own ideas. They can make a good assessment of the situation to adopt the appropriate measures to eliminate terrorism. These measures could be completely different from ours.

At the end of the news conference the two presidents thanked the press and entered the White House.

Pledges Not To Withdraw From NPT

NC0504164395 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1545 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 5 Apr (MENA)—The LOS ANGELES TIMES reports today that the comments made by President Husni Mubarak on the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] prior to his talks with President Clinton today have defused the differences between Egypt and the United States.

Under the headline "Egypt Pledges To Support the Renewal of the NPT," the paper publishes a preamble to the interview it did with the president which it will publish on Sunday [9 April]. It says that President Mubarak pledged not to withdraw from the NPT even if Israel refuses to sign it. But the president, as the paper says, did not promise that Egypt will vote for the treaty in its present form and said that if the majority of countries approves the indefinite extension of the treaty then this will have its effect on the international community as a whole.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES adds that some of the president's aides later said that Egypt will most probably vote with the United States on this issue. It says: Although U.S. Administration officials are increasingly confident that the treaty will be approved, Washington still likes a big majority to sign it so as to add more legitimacy to its objectives of preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons. The abstention of a close U.S. ally such as Egypt will be very embarrassing for the U.S. Administration.

The paper cites President Mubarak as saying that Egypt will continue its negotiations to reach a compromise with Israel on this issue and that it is trying to convince Israel to open its nuclear program to international inspection. The paper notes in this respect that Israel says that this step could be made when we achieve peace with all countries of the region, including Libya, Iran, and Iraq.

The LOS ANGELES TIMES reports that President Mubarak explained that he understands why Israel wants to wait until peace is reached with Syria before abandoning its nuclear program. But at the same time he downplayed the importance of Israeli fears from countries that do not even have borders with it.

The president expressed this by saying: It seems that Israel wants to expand the Middle East to reach North Korea.

He added: We signed a peace agreement with Israel 17 years ago. The Jordanians signed another agreement with it and the Palestinians also signed the Declaration of Principles. The Syrians are in peace process negotiations now and therefore we call on Israel to join the NPT or at least to tell us when it will join it. He expressed his belief that Syria and Israel will reach an agreement soon that will at least lead to the return of the Golan Heights to Syria and enable it to establish relations with Israel.

The paper says that even though the U.S. Administration wants an international consensus on signing the NPT, it does not wish to pressure Israel to sign it.

President Mubarak told the paper that Libyan President [as received] Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has become more moderate in recent years and has put an end to the activities of the terrorist groups that made Libya their base.

On U.S. aid to Egypt, he said that he realizes that a reduction in U.S. aid is possible but he is asking Congress to impose the same rate of reduction in aid to Israel.

He noted that one of the main objectives of his visit to the United States "under a Congress controlled by a Republican Party majority" is to get to know the new members up close and explain the Middle East situation to them, adding that he does not intend to discuss foreign aid with the Congress unless we are asked specific questions on this issue. He said that he is ready to explain two points on the aid issue: that most of the aid money is spent in the United States and that the United States is in a very superior position since its exports to Egypt reach $4 billion a year while its imports from Egypt are $640 million.

The paper adds that U.S. officials are saying that the White House will support the continuation of aid to Egypt for several years at least.

Denies Problems in Relations

NC0504061895 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2235 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 4 Apr (MENA)—In a statement during his visit to the U.S. Congress today, President Husni Mubarak said that there is absolutely no problem in the relations between Egypt and the United States. He said the relations are excellent and need no further explanation. The president maintained that the two countries are cooperating in the various fields and are exchanging views regarding all issues and matters.

President Mubarak wound up his intensive activities for the day by holding a meeting with leading figures of the House of Representatives Foreign Relations Committee this evening.

Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif said that President Mubarak briefed the committee's members on the strenuous efforts that Egypt is making to advance the peace process in the Middle East, guarantee its success, and resolve all the existing problems facing this process. President Mubarak affirmed that this success will establish stability and security in the region and, consequently, will begin a new chapter for the region and its peoples.

The president, al-Sharif added, stressed the importance of making the Middle East a nuclear weapons-free zone and of allowing all the region's states to enjoy equal rights and duties. Otherwise a lasting and comprehensive peace will be jeopardized. President Mubarak said this is why Egypt is endeavoring to make Israel sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and free the region of any nuclear weapons.

Expresses 'Full Satisfaction'

NC0604085595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0640 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Washington, 6 Apr (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has expressed his full satisfaction with the results of his visit to the United States. He said that the visit resulted in perfect understanding between the two sides. President Mubarak denied the existence of any crisis between Cairo and Washington. He said that the Egyptian stance on all issues has been clear and well known to the U.S. side. He added that President Bill Clinton expressed perfect understanding of our stances and logic, something we previously discussed with him when he came to Cairo. Also, U.S. Vice President Al Gore was fully informed of our stances and showed understanding of them during the two visits he made to Cairo.

In statements he made to the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers before his departure from Washington early this morning, Cairo time, President Mubarak clarified that the feeling some have regarding a so-called crisis has resulted in the publication of articles in some U.S. newspapers with incorrect reports about the state of the Egyptian economy. He said that he felt during his meetings with the members of Congress and its committees that none of them paid any attention to these articles. The men in the administration also did not pay any attention to these articles, because congressmen, bank officials, and government officials visit Egypt regularly and know the facts.

Answering a question on the future and fate of U.S. aid to Egypt, President Mubarak said: I did not come to Washington to discuss this issue. It is a sensitive topic that I do not wish to delve into.

The president added in his meeting with the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers: We know very well that we will not get this aid forever. But I clarified to the congressmen at the same time that this aid was decided for

Egypt and Israel on the basis of the Camp David agreement. Therefore, any discussion about the future of this aid must take place on an equal footing between Egypt and Israel so that public opinion is not aroused.

President Mubarak said in his statements to the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers that he discussed many topics with President Clinton during their closed meeting, which went on for one hour. Among these topics were nuclear nonproliferation, the peace process, supporting the question of Palestine, and bilateral relations.

The president added that he asked U.S. President Bill Clinton to look for a solution to the problems of the Iraqi people, who are suffering from a shortage of food and medicine. He said that he is currently looking for a way to provide funding to cover the Iraqi people's needs for food and medicine by allowing the sale of large amounts of Iraqi oil.

The president noted that he stressed this point to alleviate the suffering of the Iraqi people.

President Husni Mubarak affirmed that bilateral relations between Egypt and the United States occupied a large part of the talks within the framework of the partnership accord that Egypt signed with U.S. Vice President Al Gore.

He clarified that the partnership accord means increasing U.S. investments in Egypt, thus opening new opportunities for jobs and increasing Egyptian exports. He said this is why he was anxious to choose the members of the presidential committee of Egyptian businessmen from among the producers and exporters.

He pointed out that the agreement also included the transfer of technology to Egypt and setting up joint projects.

President Mubarak mentioned in his statements to the chief editors of Egyptian newspapers before departing Washington that the question of Palestine occupied a large amount of time during the talks because the situation is dangerous and cannot continue like this. He said: Leaving over 100,000 Palestinians without work or a source of livelihood for their families and their children means pushing all of them to extremism and eventually explosion. If this happens, it will be difficult to solve the problem and this region will become more dangerous than Afghanistan.

President Mubarak pointed out that he stressed the need for cooperation between the Palestinians and the Israelis and that the Israelis must open doors for the Palestinians to earn a living. They should also remove the siege that prevents the Palestinians from working and moving around.

President Husni Mubarak affirmed that his visit to the United States was very important and was an appropriate opportunity to clarify issues, explain stances, and rectify many misconceptions.

He said that he asked Dr. 'Atif 'Ubayd, minister of the public business sector and minister of state for administrative development, to explain to the congressmen, President Clinton, and the members of the U.S. delegation to the joint meeting, the economic reform program and the privatization program, pointing out that President Clinton expressed his appreciation for the Egyptian program and the results it has accomplished.

President Mubarak mentioned in his meeting with the chief editors of the Egyptian newspapers that he spoke before the congressmen about the various activities and areas U.S. aid is being spent on. He affirmed that this spending takes place under the supervision of U.S. aid, where each sum is spent in the right place.

President Mubarak concluded: I got used to talking to the U.S. congressmen with great frankness and clarity. I do not hide anything from them. Even if the Egyptian administration makes a mistake, I do not hesitate to admit it. Therefore, there is mutual trust between myself and the congressmen.

Importance of Talks Viewed

NC0504142295 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1240 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Commentary by 'Atif 'Umar: "The Washington Summit Marks the Start of Radical Changes in the Middle East"]

[FBIS Translated Text] All international political sources expect the Egyptian-U.S. summit scheduled for later today in Washington to mark a major turning point in Egyptian-U.S. relations. They also expect its positive outcome to include the whole Middle East, because President Mubarak has overcome all the obstacles and highlighted the importance of Egypt's pivotal role in establishing peace and stability in the Middle East, factors that are important for the vital interests of people everywhere in view of this region's extreme strategic importance.

Expectations that this summit will succeed have been boosted by President Mubarak's extensive meetings with the U.S. Administration's political and economic officials and with prominent leaders of the House of Representatives and Congress. These expectations were stressed in the statements made by all those who met the president. There is an unprecedented consensus on praise and respect for the president, who, through his calm and objective presentation and his known frankness, has put all the facts before the U.S. leaders involved in decisionmaking on the administration's foreign and domestic policies.

Since President Mubarak assumed responsibility, Egypt has been eager to back and strengthen stability and peace in the region. The agreements signed by the Palestinians and Jordanians with Israel and the direct and indirect negotiations between Syria and Israel are some of the fruits of the pivotal role Egypt is playing in affirming its desire for stability and peace. Clarity of vision and the

Egyptian political leadership's pragmatism have effectively helped overcome many obstacles that confronted the peace process.

This welcome, appreciation, and respect expressed by U.S. officials is simply a reflection and recognition of Egypt's important role in achieving peace and stability in the Middle East.

Based on these firm positions and undoubted credibility, President Mubarak continues to proceed with firm steps toward the objective he clearly expressed, namely, that Egypt and all the Arabs are advocates of peace and that there are, in Islam—the religion most Arab peoples embrace—indisputable Koranic verses calling for peace. Hence, the Arabs, all the Arabs, are demanding and seeking peace with Israel despite Israel claiming for years that it was the one seeking peace with its Arab neighbors and that they rejected it.

Now that all the masks have been removed and the world has become convinced that the Arabs are really eager to achieve peace, the U.S. Administration and the West in general will reassess the situation in light of the developments, which cannot be affected by any attempts to obscure them. The leader of the largest Arab country in the Middle East stressed to all the U.S. media that the Arab efforts to establish a lasting peace in the region will continue until stability and peace are achieved for all the peoples of the region, including the Israelis, and so that all these people can devote themselves to reconstruction and to recouping their losses in all these conflicts that went on futilely for both the Arab and Israeli sides for almost 50 years.

The Mubarak-Clinton summit will undoubtedly shape the start of a new type of relationship between Egypt, the largest Arab country, and the United States, which raises the slogan of cooperation with everybody for the sake of mankind's prosperity.

Musa Interviewed on Nuclear Treaty, Peres Meeting

NC0504195495 London MBC Television in Arabic 1800 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] MBC correspondent in Washington 'Aziz Fahmi reports:

[Begin recording] [Fahmi] President Husni Mubarak will conclude his four-day visit to Washington today. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa told MBC this morning that Egypt has not changed its stance and that if Israel agrees to begin negotiations on the way to join the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, this would mark an important Israeli recognition of the existence of its nuclear program.

[Musa] The question is not merely signing and joining the treaty. This issue requires arrangements for establishing a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, agreement on what these weapons are, the inspection system, and the member states. This will take time. Negotiations over these issues must begin. When Israel enters negotiations on this issue, this will definitely lead to a complete change in the situation in the region.

[Fahmi] What about your meeting with Shim'on Peres?

[Musa] We want to see if the Israelis have made any progress or have new proposals, responses to our proposals, or anything relating to other topics, such as the peace process. [announcer apologizes for a technical fault precluding the TV from broadcasting the rest of the report] [end recording]

Daily Laments 'Huge' Israeli Nuclear Arsenal

NC0504065095 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 0435 GMT 5 Apr 95

[From the press review]

[FBIS Translated Text] In its editorial today, AL-AHRAM points out that today Washington will be the venue of a summit between President Husni Mubarak and U.S. President Bill Clinton to discuss issues that are highly important for all Middle Eastern peoples. Chief among these issues is the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, which will come up for renewal soon.

AL-AHRAM asks: How can peace be stable and solid in the presence of a huge Israeli nuclear arsenal? Even the Israelis themselves are starting to question the wisdom of maintaining an Israeli nuclear arms program now that there is peace with the Arabs. This is particularly so since this program is too expensive for Israel to afford and Israeli's territory is not vast enough to provide safety for this program.

The paper notes that this problem needs to be objectively resolved in order to eliminate the concerns of both the Arabs and Israelis.

'Official Sources' Deny Reports of PFLP Office

MM0604110095 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 6 Apr 95 p 5

[Unatributed report: "Egypt: Popular Front Did Not Ask To Open Office in Cairo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, AL-HAYAH—Egypt has announced that the PLO office in Cairo, which became an embassy in November 1988, is the sole official diplomatic Palestinian representative to the Egyptian Government. In a statement to AL-HAYAH, Egyptian official sources denied the existence of an application by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], which is led by Dr. George Habash, to open a PFLP office in Cairo as claimed by some press reports which said that the government had received such an application and set some conditions for agreeing to the opening of such an office. The sources said that Egypt "deals with the Palestinian people through the embassy which represents their national authority and future state." The sources said that the Palestinian factions "represent political trends within the Palestinian internal framework."

Libya

VOA, BBC Criticized for 'Clear Distortion'

LD0504183095 Tripoli JANA in English 1742 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] TRIPOLI, Al Tayr 5 [April 5], Jamahiriyah News Agency—The Voice of America [VOA] and the B.B.C. made clear distortion for an item reported by the Jamahiriyah News Agency [JANA] on the 30th of Al Rabia [30 March], regarding the leader of the revolution's reception for the O.A.U. liaison committee with the rival parties in the so-called Lockerbie case, which held its first meeting in the Great Jamahiriyah.

The leader of the revolution had asserted during the meeting that the Great Jamahiriyah had taken the necessary arrangements and positions concerning the two suspected Libyan nationals to guarantee a fair trial, but as a state, it can not surrender its citizens to another state without their consent because that violates the laws and human rights.

The Voice of America transmitted the report on the meeting in the following manner: (The Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi insists that he will not surrender the two Libyan suspects involved in the bombing of Pan-Am over Lockerbie for any country in order to try them. He said he can not surrender them for any other state against their wishes which constitute a violation for the Libyan Constituion). [parentheses as received]

As for the B.B.C it transmitted the following: (Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi has confirmed once again that he will not surrender the two Libyans accused with the Pan-Am bombing over Lockerbie. He said he can not surrender his citizens to another state as there is no extradition treaty between them and this will constitute a violation for international laws and human rights). [parentheses as received]

This demonstrates the extent of distortion and fraudulence which the two radios applied on the text of the item which had been transmitted by Jamahiriyah News Agency. That shows that there is no commitment to journalist credibility and honesty which is essential in this profession. The two radios have ignored the clear indication in the item that the issue of surrendering the two suspects concerns them and that Libya as a state can not surrender its citizens without their consent [words indistinct].

The two radios were deliberately implicating the name of the leader of the revolution in this issue which constitutes a clear fraudulence for the original text.

The Jamahiriyah News Agency has drawn the attention to this fraudulence, immediately, but the two radios did not pay any attention for that.

To make things clear we include here with the original text transmitted by the agency:

The leader of the revolution yesterday received the members of the O.A.U. committee for liaison with the rival parties in the so- called Lockerbie case.

The leader of the revolution hailed the O.A.U.'s initiative to establish this committee.

He confirmed the need to re-consider the membership of smaller states in the United Nations, which is dominated by Western states that were aligned against Germany in the Second World War.

The leader of the revolution indicated that the Great Jamahiriyah has taken the necessary arrangements and positions concerning the two suspected Libyan nationals to guarantee a fair trial, but as a state, it cannot surrender its citizens to another state without their consent because that violates the laws and human rights.

He added that America is trying to threaten smaller states like Iraq and Libya and this could apply to other states, as America wants to achieve its imperialist goals.

Sudan, Uganda Agree on Principles for Accord

LD0604102495 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0745 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Tripoli, 6 Apr (JANA)—The brother leader of the revolution has received brother Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice president of the sisterly Republic of Sudan; brother Eriya Kategaya, first deputy prime minister of Uganda; and the delegations accompanying them.

The brother leader of the revolution hailed the positive response that the two countries had given to the Great Jamahiriyah's call for healing the rift and consolidating trust between the two friendly peoples in Sudan and Uganda, and praised the results reached by the two sides to this effect. [passage omitted]

As a result of the intensified efforts initiated by the brother leader of the world al-Fatih revolution to entrench good neighborliness, stability, and cooperation between Sudan and Uganda; out of the revolutionary principle that Africa can only be allied with itself; and out of Sudan and Uganda's positive response to these efforts and their appreciation of the position which the Great Jamahiriyah has in the African continent; following the meetings held by the two delegations under the chairmanship of Zubayr Muhammad Salih and Eriya Kategaya and the intensified meetings held in Tripoli in the Great Jamahiriyah:

A press communique was signed yesterday evening in Tripoli in the presence of brother Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir. Here follows the text of the communique:

In response to the initiative of Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, the brother leader of the al-Fatih revolution, to bolster brotherly relations between Sudan and Uganda in order to reach stability in view of the historical and social bonds between them, and guided by the principles of the charter of the Organization of African Unity and good neighborliness, and in consolidation of the march of the African peoples toward stability and progress, Zubayr Muhammad Salih, vice president of the Republic of Sudan, and brother Eriya Kategaya, first deputy prime minister of Uganda, accompanied by two important delegations and in the presence of brother Colonel Abu- Bakr Yunis Jabir, held intensified talks between 3 and 5 April. These talks revolved round the Great Jamahiriyah's initiative to bolster trust and good neighborliness, and to promote relations between the two Republics of Sudan and Uganda in consolidation of security and stability between them.

The two countries have agreed upon the wording of the Tripoli Declaration which includes the following principles.

First:

A. Acknowledging and affirming the principle of equality and respect between the two countries and of building bridges of trust between them in a bid to protect the two countries' stability, security, and interests;

B. Respecting either side's policies on local matters which do not prejudice the interest of the other side;

C. Commitment to noninterference in either side's internal affairs, pledging to refrain from providing aid to any opposing gang in either country, and barring the use of either side's territory for attacks on the other side;

D. Refraining from the use of force by either side and seeking recognized peaceful channels for resolving disputes through dialogue and negotiations;

E. Guaranteeing cooperation and consultation between the two countries in economic, trade, and cultural spheres as well as in all other fields in order to boost their fraternal bonds;

Second:

Agreeing to convene a tripartite summit meeting between the brother Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the great al-Fatih revolution; President Yoweri Museveni, president of the Republic of Uganda; and Lieutenant-General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the Republic of Sudan, in the great Jamahiriyah in June 1995 to ratify the Tripoli Declaration, draw up suitable mechanisms to boost the three countries' relations, and crystallize practical formulas to bring about peace, security, and stability.

The brother leader of the great al-Fatih revolution did receive the two countries' delegations. He blessed the outcome of the their talks and praised their response to the initiative of the great Jamahiriyah which signalled their trust in its tireless efforts to boost the stability of African peoples as well as their security and their efforts for economic and social development.

Signed in Tripoli 5 April 1995 by Vice President General Zubayr Muhammad Salih, for the Republic of Sudan; First Deputy Prime Minister Eriya Kategaya, for the Republic of Uganda; and Colonel Abu-Bakr Yunis Jabir, for the Great Jamahiriyah.

Agreement Reached With Sudan on Information Cooperation

LD0404155195 Tripoli Great Jamahiriyah Radio Network in Arabic 1230 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] An agreement was signed in Surt town yesterday evening on the implementation schedule for cooperation in the spheres of information and culture between the Great Jamahiriyah and brotherly Sudan.

The agreement was signed by the brother secretary of the General People's Committee for Information and Culture, and on the Sudanese side by the minister of information and culture in brotherly Sudan. [passage omitted]

The agreement contains many aspects of cooperation, including exchanging radio dispatches and cultural programs, giving impetus to exchanging audio and video productions, screening national events, and encouraging cooperation between the two countries' news agencies [passage indistinct].

Sudan

Al-Turabi Said To Embrace 'Extremist Elements'

MM0604084895 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 4

[Report by Zayn-al-'Abidin Ahmad: "Sudanese Opposition Accuses Khartoum of Supporting Extremists To Harm Neighboring States"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo—The Sudanese opposition has accused the Sudanese Government of pushing extremist elements into neighboring states in a bid to hit the regimes there, sow the seeds of sedition, spread disunity, and fragment Muslims.

The opposition described the Arab Islamic People's Congress held in Khartoum as new evidence of al-Turabi's front [National Islamic Front] embracing extremist elements from all over the world.

In a statement issued yesterday the opposition held the Sudanese Government responsible for the subsequent results of this congress.

The Sudanese Democratic Unionist Party said in a statement issued in Cairo yesterday: The real aims behind the establishment of this congress are to support the al-Turabi front's regime and support other fundamentalist parties and organizations in order to change the regimes in their countries and establish alternative regimes along the lines of the front's fundamentalist model in Sudan.

The statement attacked the front for its extravagant preparation for this congress' conference. It said: While the country continues to face the threats of partition, fragmentation, and complete economic collapse; while the crises continue to suffocate our proud people, who are suffering from starvation, disease, poverty, homelessness, and soaring prices; and while the bloodshed is continuing in the southern region of the homeland, Khartoum has witnessed—at the invitation of Shaykh Hasan al-Turabi, the front's secretary general, the convening of the third conference of the so-called Arab Islamic People's Congress, in which extremist fundamentalist organizations and figures took part.

Salah Jalal, member of the Ummah Party Executive Bureau, who is in charge of organizations affairs, has said that the Ummah Party views the proceedings of the Arab Islamic People's Congress with utmost concern, on the grounds that it is a political demonstration against Arab and Islamic regimes in the region.

Jalal also said that this position harms the Sudanese people's interests with their brothers, neighbors, and the world as a whole. And a number of those who participated in that conference are accused of practicing or supporting terrorism in their countries. And some of them entered Sudan with forged passports. Furthermore, the conference assumed the nature of a conspiracy through the ambiguous signals mentioned in the final statement, such as the reference to the opening of offices in Arab and Islamic countries and the referral of this point to a secret meeting. And the conference provided a great service to extremist forces, enabling them to exchange expertise and coordinate plans, positions, and moves to hit stability and security in the region, oppose the peace process in the Middle East, and threaten Western interests. Dr. Amin Makki Madani, chairman of the Sudanese Human Rights Organization, has described the congress' resolutions as a new attempt by the regime in Khartoum to bolster its orientations vis-a-vis hitting stability in fraternal and friendly states.

Al-Turabi To Meet in Nairobi With Garang

MM0504102595 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 4 Apr 95 pp 1, 4

[Report by Kamal Hamid: "Al-Turabi and Garang To Meet Soon"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Khartoum—According to informed Sudanese sources, Dr. Hasan al-Turabi, leader of the ruling National Islamic Front in Sudan, will visit Nairobi this month to begin negotiations with the leaders of the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] led by Colonel John Garang.

AL-HAYAH has learned that 'Abd-al-Hakam Tayfur, a prominent member of the leadership of the Democratic Unionist Party and member of the Transitional National Assembly (appointed parliament), held talks in Nairobi with the aim of arranging a meeting there between Garang and al-Turabi that would focus on the issue of peace in southern Sudan. The sources said al-Turabi would visit Kenya this month following the SPLM's approval of the meeting.

Garang recently announced that he agreed to hold such a meeting provided it is held through the mediators of the Intergovernmental Authority for Drought and Development (IGADD) and in the presence of Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi who received al-Turabi last year.

It should be noted that Tayfur is a wealthy businessman who worked in southern Sudan for a long time and has extensive relations with southern politicians. He met with Garang and SPLM officials last week. [passage omitted]

Bahrain

Police Car Attackers Make Full Confessions

JN0504111595 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0920 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Manama, 5 Apr (WAKH)—A responsible source at the Bahraini Interior Ministry has said that members of the terrorist group who committed the ugly crime of burning a Public Security patrol car in the Sitrah area at 1700 on Thursday, 30 March, have made full confessions to the examining magistrate. Policeman Duryar Muhammad, martyr to the duty of preserving security, was killed in this incident, and two others received serious burns.

In a statement published here today, the source said the confessions revealed that this heinous crime was carried out after the culprits had prepared Molotov cocktails and distributed them to the members of the group, who ambushed the patrol while carrying out its duty in protecting the citizens' security and property in that area. They hurled Molotov cocktails at them, burning the car, killing its driver Duryar Muhammad and injuring two patrol members.

The confessions also revealed their participation in demonstrations, blocking of roads, sabotage acts, and burning telephone booths in the Sitrah area.

The responsible source said investigation into this terrorist crime is continuing and that all suspects will be referred to the judiciary. He expressed the Interior Ministry security organizations' appreciation of the honorable citizens' denunciation of these ugly criminal actions and their support for the security measures and efforts to preserve the security and stability of the dear homeland.

Oman

Sultan Endorses GCC Security Agreement

JN0204131695 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Muscat, 2 Apr (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman today endorsed the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states' security agreement. A sultani decree issued here today stated that competent authorities should submit the ratification instruments to the GCC General Secretariat in accordance with the agreement's provisions.

Saudi Arabia

CDLR Assails 'Unholy Alliance' With U.S., Israel

MS0404101095 London CDLR MONITOR in English 31 Mar 95

[Bulletin No. 41 of the Committee for the Defense of Legitimate Rights of Saudi Arabia, (CDLR)—received by fax 31 March]

[FBIS Transcribed Text]

The Meeting of Betrayal...

Two days ago the Committee issued Communique 29 exposing the new unholy conspiracy between al Sa'ud, The Americans and the Zionists.

In the communique, the Committee mentioned the details of an accord ready for signature by al Sa'ud and the Israelis, and with the blessings of the Americans, where al Sa'ud would offer Israel complete recognition and complete and comprehensive normalisation of relations between the two countries, in return for which the Saudi regime wants American intelligence to liquidate the Committee, and also, with the co-operation of America and Israel to initiate a comprehensive "cover-up" of the crimes committed by al Sa'ud, both domestically and internationally, ostensibly through the great influence exerted by America and Israel on the international media.

The actual meeting took place last Wednesday in al Sa'ud's embassy in London. Participants in the main meeting were Bandar Bin-Sultan and a leading and influential figure in the CIA.

Further preparations were discussed for a future meeting in Oxford, England, between Bandar Bin-Sultan and Shimon Peres for the purpose of reaching a final agreement where Israel would make a comprehensive commitment to provide for the security of the ruling family. Al-Sa'ud's part of the bargain is recognition of Israel and to enter the "new" Middle East community where Israel is accepted. Bandar Bin-Sultan left London on Friday to travel to the Kingdom to consult with the King before his meeting with Perez.

The Committee has been able to acquire a complete recording of the discussion that took place in the London meeting during which may dangerous realities came to light.

It became clearly evident that the meeting was a continuation of an on-going detente between al Sa'ud and the Israelis. It also became patently obvious as to the degree of distress and suffering experienced by al Sa'ud as a result of the Committee's activities and for this reason al Sa'ud are trying their utmost to ensure the destruction of the Committee.

Is there a more heinous treason or betrayal than that when a ruler initiates an alliance with the Nation's fiercest enemies?

In the past, people have forgiven their rulers when they have managed to keep the dignity of their nation and countries even during times of weakness or when mistakes have been made, but people have never, and never will, forgive rulers who sell their people in a sordid deal solely for the sake of keeping their positions of power no matter what the price. Who has given our rulers this security of staying in power? It is the enemy itself.

This is precisely what has occurred between Bandar Bin-Sultan, the Americans and the Israelis. The most peculiar aspect of this ignoble case is that it does not end with treason against the faith and loyalty of the nation. Bandar is the one who was pleading and repeating the ruling family's willingness to prostrate themselves at the feet of the Israelis in return for liquidating the public figures and leaders, as well as to conspire with the Israelis to cover-up their horrifying crimes committed against scholars and reformers.

However, we are unsure as to where the problem lies:—with al Sa'ud, who still inhabit a phaeronic environment and mentality in that they believe that they personally own the land and everything on it with a Nation of slaves, or is the problem in the Nation itself, as they have allowed al Sa'ud to persist in their tyrannical and oppressive behaviour against the people and to forsake the dignity and honour of the nation for the sake of keeping their power.

Bandar would not have attempted such despicable and contemptuous actions if he was aware that the nation objects to such conspiracy and betrayal. However, Bandar does not hesitate in such actions when he observes Shaykh 'Abd-al-'Aziz Ibn-Baz giving his blessings to what is euphemistically known as the "peace process" and shows his support to the normalisation of relations with the Israelis. The King himself does not hesitate in his actions when he knows that he has scores of "scholars" ready to cover-up any acts of treason. All members of al Sa'ud are quite prepared, when all they see are acts of obedience and subservience towards them day and night, to commit any crimes to ensure their positions of power.

However, the King, Bandar and the rest of al Sa'ud appear to have forgotten that those showing them acts of obedience, are actually people of their own making and al Sa'ud would be deceiving themselves if they truly believe that the rest of the Nation share the same opinions as their subservient lackeys. It would seem that in reality al Sa'ud are intentionally fooling themselves so that they do not retreat from the path of treason. If al Sa'ud had the slightest conviction that the objection to slavery and the awakening is a general trend within the Nation, then they would not have based all their plans on the liquidation of a few people, but unfortunately these despotic rulers are not prepared to listen to criticism, never mind the nation actually repudiating their leadership.

Al Sa'ud have totally failed to comprehend that the society has changed and that the nation has awoken. They persist in surrounding themselves in an unreal, fantasy world consisting of their cronies and henchmen.

O Muslims, enough contempt and shame has been felt by placing our Nations fate in the hands of those such as Bandar Bin-Sultan.

O Muslims, if you had heard the contents of the London meeting, you would have been even more ashamed of yourselves because such people are your masters. So, make this event a catalyst to bring forth the pride of the nation and the supremacy of Shari'ah and Islam. Let this scandal be a drive towards increased participation in the service of reform. Perhaps the least you can present is to show your objections to the regime and their treasonous activities by participating in the Buraydah protest on Friday as well as any future projects.

We appeal to our Brothers to try their utmost to deliver this message, and to attempt to convince those who are still fearful and hesitant to participate fully.

You may be sure that the lack of protest is encouraging the traitors to commit further acts of betrayal. Our Brothers must continue to impress the truth upon those scholars seduced by al Sa'ud to enable them to save themselves from the same inevitable fate awaiting al Sa'ud.

Scenes From the Meeting of Betrayal....

— The request of Bandar for the liquidation of the Committee was very insistent in that he repeated this request on more than ten occasions and also impressed upon those present that no recognition or co-operation would take place unless the liquidation was carried out. The American side, however, insisted that recognition and normalisation of relations with Israel would be a necessary pre-requisite for the execution of Bandar's request. The Americans promised that American intelligence will proceed with the immediate distortion of the Committee's reputation, attempts to mislead the Committee with false information, attempts to cause mistrust between Committee members and to create as many opposition groups as possible to lessen the impact of the Committee itself

— During the meeting, signs of a family dispute were patently obvious and it was not absolutely clear just who Bandar was representing. For example, he described Sa'ud al Faysal as a useless and worthless person who only runs after his personal interests.

— He also claimed that the King was steadily and surely relegating Salman to a position on the sidelines, as he represents a danger to the future of the Kings sons. Bandar also spoke fearfully and doubtfully regarding a strong group within the family, which could possibly be a referral to Crown Prince Abdullah.

He also indicated that Fahd Ibn-Abd-al-'Aziz is a man of decision at the present time.

Despite the fact that Bandar ostensibly appeared to be representing the King at the meeting, it became obvious that he himself has some aspirations and hopes regarding succession to the throne. Bandar actually requested the Americans to withhold some information from the King and spoke as though he himself was a man of great decision and authority.

Despite the American promises to implement Bandar's request, they still attempted to convince Bandar of the necessity of presenting limited political reform in order to prevent any future opposition group having any great effect.

— Bandar's language was extremely crude, calling members of the Committee "stray dogs," and he referred to the tribe of 'Utaybah in an insulting manner because of the actions of Shaykh Qassab al- 'Utaybi. He requested that the Americans should teach this tribe, and others, a good lesson by liquidating Kassab.

Bandar also referred to various members of the ruling family in abusive terms along with various leaders such as the Presidents of Yemen, Egypt and Syria. Shaykhs Safar and Salman were accorded the honor of being insulted as "psychos!"

— Bandar has shown a great deal of panic and concern regarding publications in the international press regarding the present realities in the Kingdom and he requested the Americans and Israelis to intervene most strongly to prevent future publications of this sort, insisting that this was a condition of the deal.

— Two Israelis and a Saudi intelligence operative, along with various cronies, were present for part of the meeting. Their identities will be revealed in time.

—The American present requested a coffee as a sign of respect for being in the Saudi Embassy, but Bandar insisted on serving him whiskey, boasting that all manner of alcoholic beverages were available.

— Bandar expressed his concern regarding the distribution of an economic report prepared by the Committee amongst businessmen, banks, universities and other concerned institutions in America.

— Participants at the meeting listened to a detailed report on the Committee members in London and their contacts and sympathisers other than the Saudis.

— The Americans admitted the ability of the Committee to penetrate the very depths of the regime, and admitted that much confidential information is regularly leaked to the Committee.

— The Americans admitted the capabilities of the CIA and FBI in intervening in the American judicial system. They admitted to routine distortion of reality and their ability to criminalize the innocent to achieve their directives. They mentioned that it would be somewhat difficult to intervene in England.

— The Ambassador, Ghazi al-Qusaybi did not participate in the actual meeting and was relegated to the supervising the catering requirements.

— Bandar mentioned among his complaints that he had information to the effect that at least three PhD theses were in preparation in American Universities regarding the collapse of the economical situation in the Kingdom. He accused the Americans of leniency in allowing such projects to proceed.

— Bandar has shown great concern and agitation regarding other members of al Sa'ud who are competing in the race toward the Israelis, such as Khalid Ibn-Sultan's communications through Lebanese mediators. Bandar requested the Americans and Israelis to confine their dealings to himself, as his past connections with them included his role in the Gulf Crisis and the Madrid Summit.

— Bandar observed that the single most disastrous mistake perpetrated by al Sa'ud was in providing the people with a very easy and comfortable life, hence their present discontent with the present situation. He believed that the people should have been kept poor.

— Bandar expressed his anger regarding the failure of the regime in following the communications of the Committee, and he accused the Americans of apathy. The Americans replied that the fault lay with the regime for their failure to buy modern equipment costing a billion dollars, which has been bought by countries with less wealth than Saudi, such as Egypt.

— Bandar expressed his sorrow at the departure of Martin Indyck from Washington and concluded that he himself has become likened to an "orphan" whilst in Washington.

The American convinced Bandar that he himself would take on the place of Indyck in open co-operation with him.

— The Americans promised Bandar that the recognition operation would accompany an international media campaign against Islamic groups, and that Israel would place all their security information regarding the opposition, at al Sa'ud's disposal.

Regarding The "Sit-in" Protest...

After the success of the "sit-in" protest in Riyadh and the success of the Committee's media campaign to enlighten the public of the necessity of such protests, as well as the success of your Youth in maintaining discipline and so spoiling the plans of those who wanted chaos, the regime attempted to prevent the enactment of the protests by various methods, including the dissemination of rumours regarding the alteration of the timing of the protests while claiming that this was due to decisions taken by the legitimate leaders, rumours that all preachers and students objected to such protests and also the unlikely rumour that stated that the detained scholars were against such protests and that if they were at liberty, they would have ensured the cancellation of the protest!

However, we confirm that the "sit-in" protest is right on schedule and that the legitimate leaders are firmly behind the preparations for the protest at the designated time on Friday 31st March 1995, after the Friday pray in Al Thiyab Mosque in Buraydah.

In the event of the mosque being closed, an alternative venue will be appointed.

The authorities attempted a show of force in Buraydah last week, well aware that Buraydah is situated some distance from any concentration of foreigners, especially diplomats and journalists. For this reason, a few days ago, the Committee distributed a declaration in English amongst these diplomats and journalists, inviting them to attend the protest in Buraydah to observe the activities there. The Committee has learned that several of the diplomats and journalists have already made the journey to Buraydah. Amongst them are some Muslims who will participate in the protest wearing local traditional dress. Others preferred to take an official path by requesting official permission from the Media Ministry to travel to Buraydah to report on the protest. This placed the Ministry in an acutely embarrassing situation of whether to agree or not. Until now, we have received no information as to which way the Ministry has swayed.

Within Western circles, many have heard about the protest and are anxious as to how the authorities will deal with the situation. We believe that it is very likely that the protest will be treated in a similar manner to the previous protests. In brief, there was, in the previous "sit-ins", an intensive surveillance operation by security personnel, albeit inconspicuous in civilian clothing, at some distance from the actual proceedings.

If the brothers comply with the directions of the legitimate leaders by simply staying in the mosque for one hour after the prayer for Du'a and recitation of Koran, then we do not foresee the possibility of force being used against them, and we repeat that which we have stated before in so much as what can the security forces actually do? If they expel people from the mosque the people will say, "Ibn Sa'ud assault mosques and eject the worshippers by force," of if they arrest people, then those arrested will accompany Shaykhs Salman and Safar and the other scholars in prison and this would be witnessed by the nation and indeed the rest of the world.

The legitimate leaders repeat their call for the protest and press upon the necessity of the protest, now more than ever before, after the scandal of the leaked plans of treason and conspiracy against Islam in conjunction with Islam's greatest enemies.

Participation in the protest will not only express dissent against the detention of the scholars and the siege on the reform process, but it will also be an expression of the total rejection of the acts of betrayal and treason which have been perpetrated in a most despicable and vile manner.

The Committee would wish to correct some information previously given regarding the international solidarity day with the scholars of the peninsula, as in the previous bulletin we mentioned that the date set would be during the middle of April. The correct date is actually the 21st April. Preparations are being made for "sit-in" protests in a number of western cities, most probably including London. On the day, the Friday sermons will be regarding the fate of the scholars of the peninsula and the reasons for their detention, as well as the exposure of the reality of the regime and its secret war against Islam. Distribution of large numbers of booklets and posters is also planned.

We would remind the Brothers to begin preparations from now for the project of the Committee for the Hajj period, which is to include many ideas such as the distribution of a Hajj report which has been previously prepared in several languages, as well as the distribution of leaflets amongst pilgrims in order to enlighten them to the hypocrisy and deceit metered out to the Muslims in the Kingdom by the rulers. The Committee is also studying the possibility of preparing an audio cassette in various languages to distribute amongst the pilgrims for the same reasons as above.

The Committee will also be installing more telephone lines to enable pilgrims at Hajj to phone in their observations and thoughts to the Committee, and to enable the acknowledgement quickly and effectively of any new events that occur over the Hajj season. Many other ideas will be declared in time.

Last, we would remind you of the success of the efforts taken with the security personnel as there were many cases of them being won over to the side of reform. We appeal to our Brothers to continue in their splendid efforts by all possible means. Let us make use of the frustration of the security personnel and give the Kingdom an example of the avoidance of confrontation, hopefully converting more security men to the side of the reform project along the way.

News...

Welcome to the Heroes...

We congratulate the Nation on the release of a number of heroes from prison over the last few days. Amongst those released were Shaykh Khalifah al-Battah, Dr Suleyman al-Rushudi, Poet 'Abdallah al-Khamis, Shaykh Salih al-Sudayri, Prof. Nayf Abu-Khayl, Dr. Sulayman al-Duhayyan, as well as a number of young men released in various areas. The Nation has shown great respect to these heroes and were lining up to welcome them and show their support.

Despite these releases, the Committee's information does not foster any hopes that Shaykhs Safar and Salman will be released, but several others may be released over the next few days.

The Prince is a Winner Anyway...

One of the more unusual methods adopted by the Princes for making profits was illustrated by one Prince selling more than 1000 mobile phones. After the completion of the deal and the Prince having received his money, the poor customer was then surprised by a system that prevents them from actually using the phones, and services that were terminated abruptly.

The 14th Communique from the al-Jawf Liberals

The al-Jawf liberals issued their 14th Communique condemning the so called "peace process" ad the squalid prostration of al Sa'ud before the Israelis. A few days before, the same group issued their 13th communique regarding the internal affairs of the country, the proliferation of injustice, the detention of scholars and the squandering of the Nation's wealth.

The security department in al Jowf is still unable to ascertain exactly who is responsible for these activities despite the appointment over two months ago of a shrewd new personality as head of the security department in al Jowf.

Umm al-Qyra University suffers a great deal these days due to the lack of financial support. All the various departments are competing in a very unusual manner for the scarce resources available. The students accommodation has been transformed into little more than cells and can only take a small number of students.

The teaching staff has been greatly reduced and the situation in general is rapidly deteriorating.

No-One:—students, teachers or officials, hold out any real hope of improvement in the foreseeable future. In fact, many now believe that the collapse of the university is a distinct possibility.

A New Book On The Reform Project in Saudi Arabia...

A new book has been published with the title, "The Reform Project in Saud-Arabia—The story of al-'Awdah and al-Hawali." The author is al-Rifa'i. The book contains a brief history of the reform movement in the Kingdom and comments on the personal lives of the two major figures in the movement, Salman and Safar, and the reasons for their arrests. There is an appendix which includes a number of documents issued since the "Message of Appeal" from the Shaykhs, up to the present time.

The book emphasises many events in a very specific manner and we believe that up until now, this book is the only reliable reference to this period of the movements history.

We advise people to read the book and judge for themselves.

A New Poem...

Two new poems have been included in the poetical works of the awakening. One of them is about "Abu-Gazal" (Sultan) and the second is about Khalid Ibn Faysal. These two poems have gained popularity in a way that has left the security department confused and dismayed. One of the poems in particular seems to have greatly annoyed Nayif Ibn-'Abd-al'Aziz, for some unknown reason.

Disaster Compounded by Disaster...

After the disaster at Buraydah hospital with the loss of hundreds of millions of riyals, never mind the horrendous death toll, all caused primarily by the corruption and bribes involved in choosing the sight of the hospital, it would incredibly appear that the crime has been repeated yet again. A tender for repairs set at 15 million riyals has been accepted, whilst other tenders of as little as three million riyals have been pointedly rejected.

Security Worsens...

The security situation has deteriorated still further, as in the recent past a greater number of violent crimes have been reported. The Committee has learned that the number of cars stolen in Jeddah and Mecca during the month of Ramadan was more than 1200 vehicles. During the previous few days two unusual instances of theft have been reported. One was the theft of a complete telephone kiosk with all its contents, whilst the second was the theft of a lorry with a large container of goods worth approximately 25000 riyals.

Abdul Aziz's Palace and Telephone Services...

A royal order has been issued for the provision of 80 telephone lines for a new palace owned by 'Abd-al-Aziz Ibn-Fahd, for both domestic and international calls. As the royal family own thousands of palaces, we can only wonder at the number of telephone lines supplied to them all!

Settlements in the North of Ha'il...

A number of residents in the valley of Fayhan, to the north coast of Ha'il were forcibly expelled from their homes and a "settlement" for 'Abd-al-Rahman was established, containing a runway for his private jet.

One of the displaced "refugees" has supplied us with some poetry expressing his and his people's feelings. This will be published at a later date.

Saddam Reportedly Dismisses Armed Forces Officials

Chief of Staff Blamed for AWOL Cases

TA0504171795 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi opposition announced in London today that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn dismissed the Army chief of staff in the wake of increasing AWOL cases among soldiers.

Radio Claims New Appointee Named

JN0604094395 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 0900 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Iraqi papers today said Staff Lieutenant General Sultan Hashim Ahmad has been appointed Iraqi chief of staff to succeed General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi.

The new chief of staff was assistant chief of staff. He also commanded various military units and represented the Iraqi Army in the 1991 Gulf war cease-fire talks.

The Iraqi papers cited no reason for this change nor said if the former chief of staff was transferred to a new post.

Officers Released for 'Collusion'

NC0504163195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tyrant Saddam Husayn has ordered the dismissal of officers of the 5th Corps following military operations launched by the Iraqi opposition forces against the 5th Corps in north Iraq. During these operations Iraqi personnel surrendered to the opposition forces without resistance. Reports from inside Iraq say the Baghdad ruler accused these officers of collusion with the Iraqi opposition.

'Aziz Arrives in New York for UN Discussions

JN0604100195 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0940 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 6 Apr (INA)—Deputy Prime Minister Tariq 'Aziz arrived in New York on an official visit to the United Nations.

Before departing Baghdad, 'Aziz said his visit to the United Nations was determined for two reasons: To follow up on the report Ambassador Ekeus, chairman of the UN Special Commission, will submit to the Security Council on 10 April and the need to explain Iraq's position to the Security Council member states, as well as to explain to these member states Iraq's position on the U.S. draft resolution in a direct and detailed manner and to work to foil it.

Clinton, Christopher 'Contradictory Statements' Noted

JN0604104895 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0855 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 6 Apr (INA)—The newspaper AL-QADISIYAH has said that lifting the blockade imposed on Iraq is only a matter of time.

In an editorial today entitled "Political Blindness," the paper, which is concerned with military affairs, adds: All signs now affirm that the countdown has actually begun. If the blockade is not eased or lifted this month, certainly it will not last long. The U.S. Administration will give in sooner or later, and we will wait and see.

AL-QADISIYAH also discusses the statements U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher made before a Jewish gathering in Washington on Tuesday [4 April]. He claimed that his country has evidence that Iraq is trying to develop biological weapons. The paper says these statements are funny and shameless. It also points to similar statements U.S. President Clinton made to reporters at the While House during British Prime Minister Major's visit. Clinton said he does not have evidence that Iraq has resumed its military programs. These statements contradicted those made by his secretary of state.

Commenting on these contradictory statements, the paper wonders: Is it sensible that the head of state and the secretary of state contradicted one another on the same day? Had this happened in a developing country, no one would have believed it. However, the political blindness, as a result of grudge against Iraq, as well as the feeling of frustration about targeting this country, which has a deep-rooted civilization and values, have confused the U.S. Administration's statements, policies, and positions on Iraq.

AL-QADISIYAH adds: Due to its haughtiness and foolishness, the U.S. Administration is now in a position preventing it from acknowledging its failure to change the Iraqi regime and install a regime subservient to Washington. This is proven by the fact that this administration is so confused about northern Iraq that the U.S. media avoid discussing this issue not only because it exposes the double standards but also because it is a tunnel and a morass. The only hope in this case is to quickly move out of this morass.

Radio: U.S. Has 'No Desire' To Lift Sanctions

JN0504153595 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1500 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Iraq today said that the administration of U.S. President Bill Clinton has no desire—for its own reasons—to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq whether or not Iraq complies with the Security Council resolutions. Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi said: The U.S. Administration does not want to see Iraq complying with the

Security Council resolutions or cooperating with Rolf Ekeus in monitoring Iraq's armament for the simple reason that the U.S. Administration does not want to lift the sanctions imposed on Iraq whether or not it implements all, or some, of the Security Council resolutions.

U.S. Stand on Libyan Suspects, 2 Americans Compared

JN0504205795 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 8

[Article by Husayn al-Shaharbali: "Two Libyan Citizens... and Two U.S. Individuals"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The headline may appear rather strange, for what is the connection between two Libyan citizens and two U.S. individuals? Let us address the issue directly and avoid riddles, symbols, and implicit talk. The two Libyan citizens accused of the Lockerbie incident were, as the U.S. Administration claims, and as it is officially announced, the reason for imposing sanctions on fraternal Libya. Here, we do not want to get into details, for the story is known, and Libya's efforts to resolve the problem are also known. The United States wants the two Libyans to be extradited to be tried on its territory. It used this extradition as a pretext to impose sanctions. Libya has also made several proposals to settle the crisis and ensure that the two Libyans receive a fair trial. However, it refused to extradite them to the United States because if it does so, it will then be unable to protect its citizens, something which undermines the state's dignity and sovereignty and the people's authority.

If we presume that the U.S. Administration's claim is somewhat credible, then why does this administration reject Iraq's measure of arresting the two U.S. individuals who entered Iraqi territory by "mistake," which is certainly not innocently? Why does Washington request their "immediate" release without taking into consideration the diplomatic rules which are followed in such cases? Why this media escalation and intimidation by Congress at a time when the United States itself admits that these two Americans have made a mistake, whether through the innocence of a child or a wolf? A mistake is a mistake, black is black, and he who makes a mistake should be punished in accordance with the law. Intentions come after all this. Only God knows our intentions, but the Iraqis know what is inside these two individuals' subversive minds. Why does the United States give itself the right which it denies others? It is true that it is not the first time the United States has wounded its hand by its own scalpel and exposed its own double standards in a hypocritical and disgraceful way, but it is also true that we caught the two Americans red-handed. However, the United States did not catch the two Libyans red-handed. By this comparison, we do not want to discuss the allegations and claims, to be biased toward the two Libyan citizens, or to blow the two Americans' story out of proportion. However, it is a paradox: The United States makes the UN Security Council issue a resolution to punish Libya and to impose an embargo on the Libyan oil because of two Libyan citizens who have not yet been convicted, and whose government is ready to let them stand a fair and honorable trial even in The Hague. At the same time, the United States deprives Iraq of its right to exercise its sovereignty over its territory, and prevent the infiltration of spies, the guides of treason, and saboteurs.

It is certainly a ludicrous paradox which is tragic and disgraceful at the same time. However, those who seek to kill millions of Iraqis and Libyans through starvation, disease, and blockade cannot feel shame. We do not gloat over their scandal, but we say that God is God, the creator of both Libyan and American citizens. God is the Almighty God of us all whether in the White House, in Banghazi, or in the capital of glory, Baghdad. Do not God's justice and law apply to the Americans?

Question: Can the U.S. Administration give us the number of Mexicans it has arrested on the pretext of being infiltrators?

Kurds Claim Turkish Troops Pulling Out of Bases

NC0604105895 Paris AFP in English 1025 GMT 6 Apr 95

[Iraqi village names as received]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Inishke, Iraq, April 6 (AFP)—More than 2,000 Turkish troops have pulled out of one of their main bases in northern Iraq, a huge palace complex built by President Saddam Husayn east of Zakho, Kurdish officials said Thursday [6 April].

An elderly man who returned to his home at the complex was blown up by a booby-trapped grenade.

The Turks have also left a base in the Fishchabur town in the triangle bordered by Syria, Iraq and Turkey, international staff working here said.

It was not known if the troops were simply redeploying or the movements were the start of a withdrawal.

Ali Jirgiz, a member of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and former guard at the complex, said between 2,000 and 3,000 Turkish troops left Wednesday.

They had occupied Saddam's former palace since "the very beginning of the Turkish intrusion" on March 20 he said.

They headed for Matin mountain to the north, where battles have been raging with Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) rebels.

After the troops left the complex, one of their three main bases in western Iraq, 60-year-old Jamil Amin was blown up by a booby-trapped grenade when he went back to his house on the edge of the compound which covers several square kilometres.

"I rushed there and found Jamil's body completely torn apart," said one of his friends, Muhammad Husayn.

"He tried to open the door where a grenade was attached, but it exploded and killed him."

Barzani Meets Turkish Group, Urges Withdrawal

JN0504193195 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1640 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Sari Rash, Salah-al-Din—Mas'ud Barzani [leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party] received today, Wednesday, 5 April, an official Turkish delegation led by Cenk Dugatepe, director general of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, and comprising a number of Turkish officials. Our party's representative in the Turkish capital accompanied the Turkish delegation on its flight from Ankara.

During the meeting, talks dealt with the developments in the region, particularly following the military incursion of the Turkish Forces, and its repercussions. Mas'ud Barzani explained our clear and declared stand, and called on Turkey to withdraw its forces. The talks also dealt with the conditions of civilians in the region, particularly the areas affected by the military incursion, as well as the violations to which these civilians have been exposed. The talks also dealt with bilateral relations and Iraqi and regional affairs. [passage omitted]

SAIRI Leader Holds Separate Talks With PUK, KDP

NC0504164795 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On 3 April Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, chairman of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], received a delegation of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan [PUK] led by Anusharwan Mustafa and members Dr. Fu'ad Ma'sum and Firidun 'Abd-al-Qadir. Anusharwan Mustafa conveyed greetings from PUK Secretary General Jalal Talabani and his thanks for efforts by his eminence al-Hakim to establish peace in Iraqi Kurdistan.

Al-Hakim welcomed the delegation and called for quickly ending all internecine fighting and unifying ranks to confront the dangers facing Kurdistan in particular and Iraq in general.

They discussed the dangers posed by the Turkish invasion of north Iraq. Both sides condemned this invasion. They discussed ways of stepping up action against the tyrant Saddam Husayn's regime to save the Iraqi people.

In the evening al-Hakim received a delegation of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] led by Dr. Sami 'Abd-al-Rahman, including [name indistinct] Jarwan, Idris Barzani, Azad Dirwari, and [name indistinct].

'Abd-al-Rahman conveyed greetings and thanks from Mas'ud Barzani for his eminence al-Hakim's efforts to close ranks against Saddam's regime. Al-Hakim welcomed the delegation and called on brothers in Iraqi Kurdistan to stop every form of internecine fighting and to focus on warding off the dangers facing Kurdistan in particular and Iraq in general. During the two-hour meeting they discussed developments in the Turkish invasion of north Iraq and the danger for the Iraqi people. They condemned this invasion. They discussed ways of escalating the confrontation against Saddam's regime to save the Iraqi people.

PUK's Talabani Thanks Iran for Supporting Kurds

LD0504134995 Tehran IRNA in English 1225 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kermanshah, April 5, IRNA—Leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, Jalal Talabani speaking at a gathering of heads of parties of Iraqi Kurdistan on Tuesday said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always supported the people of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Sulaymaniyah television quoted Talabani as saying that the PUK will not forget the generous hospitality of the Islamic Republic of Iran towards the huge number of Iraqi Kurdish refugees who fled to Iran to remain immune from attacks of the Iraqi Army on northern Iraq.

Leaders of the Iraqi Kurdistan parties in their next session will review the future of the self-rule government of Iraqi Kurdistan, establishing peace and tranquility in the region as well as the problems caused by the Turkish incursion into the north of Iraqi Kurdistan.

Turkish Officials To Meet Iraqi Kurd Leaders

LD0404141795 London Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation Press Release in English 1233 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Received by fax]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Salah al-Din, Iraq (April 4)—an IBC [Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation] correspondent in Salah ad Din has reported that a high-level delegation from the Turkish Government will fly to liberated northern Iraq today to meet Iraqi Kurdish leaders Mas'ud Barzani and Jalal Talabani.

The delegation, which comprises representatives of the Turkish Foreign Ministry, the general staff of the Turkish Armed Forces, and the Prime Minister's Office, will be travelling by helicopter into Iraqi Kurdistan. They will travel first to Salah al-Din to meet Mas'ud Barzani, head of the Kurdish Democratic Party (KDP); and then to Sulaymaniyah to meet the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) leader, Jalal Talabani.

Discussions are expected to focus on the recent Turkish incursions into the region. In addition, it is reported that the Turkish delegation will canvass a range of possible resolutions regarding northern Iraq's political situation.

Movement Claims Regime 'Agents' Blew Up Office

NC0504144995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi People in Arabic 1400 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Constitutional Monarchy Movement [al-harakah al-malakiyah al-dusturiyah] has revealed that agents of Saddam Husayn's regime blew up the movement's (?general) office in Irbil Governorate, killing two guards and causing extensive damage to the building.

In a statement released in London today, the movement said the explosion, caused by a timebomb, occurred yesterday and that UN personnel in the area were informed.

The Constitutional Monarchy Movement said in its statement that the attack on the movement's premises was nothing new. Agents of the ruling regime's intelligence, it added, previously tried to blow up the headquarters during a command meeting. They were arrested on 6 January 1994 and admitted to their failed attempt.

The movement, which calls for a constitutional monarchy in Iraq, said Saddam's crimes confirm the bankruptcy of this ruler and his regime.

Justice Minister on Damage Caused by Blockade

NC0504154095 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1450 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 5 Apr (MENA)—Iraqi Justice Minister Shabib al-Maliki, who led his country's delegation to the meetings of the executive office of the Arab justice ministers council, has stated that the Iraqi people are suffering greatly from the unjust blockade imposed on it for five years now.

In statements to MENA, the Iraqi minister said: The unjust blockade on the Iraqi people has caused severe damage that resulted in the death of thousands of children, old and sick people due to shortages of food and medicine. He noted that the mortality rate among Iraqi children has reached 2108 percent and among old people 109 per cent. [figures as received] This represents collective genocide, banned by law.

He added that he submitted a memorandum to the executive office of the Arab justice ministers council on the negative effects of the blockade imposed on the Iraqi people. He said that the memorandum was distributed to the council's member states.

He stressed that the unjust blockade's effects have spread to the personal life of those working in organs responsible for upholding justice and applying the law, adding that Iraqi judges are suffering greatly and this negatively affects their performance and ability to work.

The Iraqi justice minister went on to say: The harsh economic conditions created by the blockade have affected social ties and created many social and economic problems, and this has led to an increase in the crime rate and the law cannot find solutions to the causes brought about by the blockade.

He called for submitting the Iraqi memorandum to the next meeting of the Arab justice ministers council in its capacity as the body concerned with achieving justice and protecting human rights so as to take the appropriate action for lifting this blockade.

He added that continuation of the blockade after Iraq's compliance with its commitment is threatening grave disaster and this requires the Security Council to fulfill its commitments.

Education Minister Urges World To Unfreeze Assets

JN0404184395 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Education Minister Hikmat 'Abdallah al-Bazzaz has said: The nonrelease of the Iraqi assets and funds frozen in world and Arab banks, particularly in Islamic states, to be used in providing the requirements for the major national faith campaign is an ugly crime and a clear violation of the substance of Islam.

In a statement to an IRAQI NEWS AGENCY correspondent, the minister said: The response by Arab and Islamic states to Iraq's recent appeal to release $10 million to print copies of the holy Koran in order to provide God's Holy Book as part of the national major faith campaign, led by mujahid President Saddam Husayn, does not conflict with the UN Security Council resolutions concerning the unfair embargo imposed against the Iraqi people.

Asked about the unfair embargo's effect on the education field, particularly as regards the provision of stationary and other educational requirements and school curriculum, the education minister said: The unfair embargo hindered the implementation of contracts signed with foreign companies to provide educational requirements. It also prevented the arrival of a paper deal worth $11 million. Furthermore, the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee prevented a Pakistani company from providing Iraq with pencils which the students need for their education.

The minister urged the world humanitarian organizations to seriously work on bringing an immediate end to the unfair embargo in order to ease the Iraqi people's suffering.

WHO Official: Health Situation Unacceptable

JN0404121695 Baghdad INA in English 1030 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, April 4, INA—A senior UN official in Baghdad has expressed deep concern over the deterioration of the health services in Iraq as a result of the embargo.

Representative of the World Health Organization (WHO) Dr. al-Habib Rajab told INA that the health situation in Iraq has deteriorated to an unacceptable level because of acute shortages of food and medicine. Iraq, he said, used to have some of the best health services in the region.

Dr. Rajab called for lifting the food and medicine embargo, stressing that Iraq's health problems can only be solved through enabling the country to use its resources to meet the basic needs of the population.

The UN official said the world has come to realize the dangers the embargo has constituted to the people of Iraq. The countries involved in the war against Iraq in the forefront which comes the U.S. have admitted the fact that the health situation is worsening, said the UN official.

He said medical aid extended to Iraq has fallen short of satisfying the needs of Iraq health institutions. This aid only meets a small part of the country's needs in comparison with the huge money Iraq used to spend on developing health services, he explained.

The WHO representative called for boosting international aid extended to the organization to enable it to carry out its program in Iraq .

German Vessel Carrying Palm Oil Docks at Umm Qasr

JN0404160995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 4 Apr (INA)—A German-registered vessel "Alaister Stern," [name of ship as transliterated] carrying 15,000 tonnes of palm oil docked at Umm Qasr port in al-Basrah Governorate yesterday. The oil shipment has been imported by the State Enterprise for Vegetable Oil, which is affiliated with the Ministry of Industry and Minerals.

The port authority has started unloading the cargo.

United Nations Notified of U.S. Aircraft Sorties

JN0504095795 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0815 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] New York, 5 Apr (INA)—Iraq has notified the United Nations about continued U.S. aircraft violations of Iraqi airspace in order to monitor and provoke.

In a message given to UN Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali, Iraq's permanent UN representative said U.S. aircraft overflew Iraq's airspace 579 times 21 to 31 March, carrying out sorties over several areas in southern and northern Iraq at various altitudes.

The message said U.S. TR-1 reconnaissance aircraft violated Iraqi airspace over southern Iraq, and then flew in the direction of Kuwait.

*Victory Promised in Economic War With U.S.

95LH0099A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 31 Jan 95 pp 1, 2

[Article by 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur: "The Mother of All Battles and the Hostile Economic War"]

[FBIS Translated Text] With God's help 1995 will be the year of Iraq's victory on both sides of the hostile economic war: the foreign economic war, which is being led by America, and the domestic economic war, which is being waged by a fifth column. With the leader's wisdom and the people's national awareness and faithful patience Iraq will see its victory in 1995.

Numerous Arab and foreign scholars described the age of the leader, Saddam Husayn, as the age of worldly heroism. They said that the Mother of All Battles was the most eloquent statement to be made about this age.

Although writers may have different ways of documenting such a description and expressing its given facts, they agree that the Mother of All Battles pointed out, on the one hand, the first condition that must be met to confront major, imminent threats to the nation. On the other hand, it pointed to an event in which the expression of the nation's reawakening spirit had risen to a historic level. It is on the basis of such a rational description that the Mother of All Battles stood out. What also stood out is the complementary relationship between the nation's modern mind and its spiritual values. Fighting and being constructive for the cause of God have become one and the same thing, because a constructive effort that is fueled by faith is a worldly effort that is made for the cause of God.

The aggression against Iraq was prompted by the fact that Iraq represents a sophisticated, national project whose aim is to see to it that the Arab nation receives what is rightfully due it. Iraq's aim is to see to it that the Arab nation assumes its appropriate position among the nations and that it plays its part in laying down the foundations of justice, fairness, and true peace in the world.

The Mother of All Battles is a major battle in modern human history because it was a rejection of injustice and tyranny and a call for national, ethnic, and international justice and fairness. The Mother of All Battles also revealed that the nonbelieving West, led by the United States of America, covets control of peoples' and nations' resources and wants to strip those nations of their sovereignty. This nonbelieving West almost led the world to believe that it had forsworn its colonialist conduct and the political beliefs it had founded to serve its hateful course of conduct. That was how the Herculean stance in the Mother of All Battles constituted a response to an aggression whose breadth, methods, weapons, and technology have no historical precedent. We can even say that it was an aggression whose proportions went beyond those of past and present acts of aggression. No future act of aggression will ever match the proportions of this one.

This makes it unequivocally clear, after over four years, that the national, ethnic, and humanitarian slogans that were proclaimed by the leader, Saddam Husayn, for the Mother of All Battles were just as appropriate then as they are today. Our people, who are laboring for their cause, and their valiant armed forces sacrificed for these slogans which, today, are more firmly embedded in our minds and hearts. The best indication of that can be seen in the best results these slogans have yielded on all levels and in all areas. Instead of renouncing their principles and their truthful, genuine policy, believers have stuck to those principles. Instead of becoming despondent and desperate, conditions that never have relieved anyone of his hardship, Iraqis started to race the clock, exerting their mental and physical energy with peerless creativity and devotion. That is how the counter offensive of construction became the bold sign of our victory in the Mother of All Battles. What we endured because of the national course we believed in and called for, as was noted by the leader and thinker, Saddam Husayn, only served to heighten our conviction that our choice was the right one and that truth was on our side. And the fear of our nation's enemies rose in proportion to our conviction. Our enemies feared the course we were pursuing and the hostile posture they had decided to maintain against us.

The aggressors are letting the war continue to this day. In prolonging the embargo, even after Iraq complied with its commitments to Security Council resolutions, the war has taken on its most cruel aspect. Furthermore, this embargo covers everything, including food and medicine. Accordingly, this is no longer an economic embargo, but rather an economic war whose danger and impact are no less than those of any declared military war.

Although the decision to impose sanctions was first issued by the UN Security Council on 5 August 1990, that decision goes back to an American one that was taken several months before that date. Afterwards, the embargo continued because of an order from America. That is why the embargo is no longer a decision that is purely international. It is a decision whose international legitimacy has been lost.

The scoundrels who imposed such a cruel and unjust embargo, especially after the justifications for imposing it were no longer valid, wanted to do more than subjugate the people of Iraq to foreign wishes. Their fundamental aim was to shake the confidence that the creative and constructive people of Iraq have in themselves, in their leaders, and also in their future.

The aggressors, whose hopes were dashed, thought that they would be able to set up a barrier between the people of Iraq and their toiling leaders by executing these conspiratorial episodes and contriving to prolong the unjust embargo and continue the hostile, economic war. They were stunned, however, when they saw their arrows miss their mark and the house of cards they had erected collapse in the fray of battle: the glorious Mother of All Battles, which turned Iraq and its toiling people into a stronghold that defied scoundrels. The tenacity of such heroic steadfastness stems from faith in God, from the wisdom of the leader, from the nation's spirit, and from its vibrant heritage. Such steadfastness made the enemies, chief among whom is the United States of America, use everything they had at their disposal to confront Iraq. But Iraq, with its cultural depth, its sound economy, and its wise dealings, will nevertheless remain the basis for any deal or agreement to be made between Iraq and the countries of the world. America is insisting that the economic war continue and that the embargo be maintained, apart from Resolution 687 and paragraph 22 therein. That will continue to provoke strong sarcastic and critical reactions once the absurdity of the American position becomes clear to the countries of the world. The world's superpowers, its small countries, and specifically the countries that are members of the Security Council will react sarcastically and critically once the resentment, conspiracy, and ulterior motive underlying America's position become clear.

The United States is claiming that Iraq is still completely or partially violating all Security Council resolutions. Therefore, it would be premature to consider the conditions for lifting the embargo. But this U.S. claim does not hold water in view of Iraq's wise policy and the bright outcome of that policy, which led specialized international circles and organizations as well as significant American circles in the Congress and the media to become convinced that Iraq had met all its obligations to the Security Council resolutions. Therefore, the embargo had to be reconsidered, and steps had to be taken to lift it partially or totally in a manner that is consistent with stipulations made by UN resolutions regarding prolonging that unjust embargo against Iraq. The fact that "this mask" has fallen signifies that continuing the embargo is no longer legally justifiable. But the United States is trying to set forth flimsy justifications for impeding international efforts to lift the embargo, and these justifications lack the minimum requirements for being persuasive. Political development in the UN Security Council provided unambiguous evidence that Iraq's positions in the council are positive and that Iraq has the support of the Council's permanent members: Russia, France, China, and other countries. That political development increased the United States' isolation and underscored its separate and biased position. It proved once again that the hateful aggression that was launched against Iraq by 30 countries led by the United States was part of a global colonial plot aimed at striking a blow against Iraq and the new structure it is building for its people. The aggression against Iraq was designed to strike a blow to Iraq's effort to recapture its cultural base that was known to the world for more than 6,000 years. Iraq's civilization, which had lasted for many centuries during which Iraq had confronted and weathered all kinds of aggression, continues to radiate its influence. Once again, in the wake of the onset of the glorious 17-30

July Revolution of 1968 under the leadership of the president and leader, Saddam Husayn, Iraq's civilization is radiating its influence.

Growing support for Iraq in the UN Security Council and in international public opinion is countered by diminishing support for those who are hostile to Iraq. This is confirmed by recent reviews of the Iraq matter in the Security Council. These reviews include a recent one that was conducted this month, on 12 January. On that day a fact that will find its place in history was recorded. On that day the patience of Iraqi believers and the considerable capability of the great leader, Saddam Husayn, came to fruition. In addition, the Iraqis' cultural and economic standing as well as their unsurpassed national, ethnic, and international influence yielded their results and enabled Iraqis to see their way to the final celebration, which will begin with breaking the unjust embargo and putting an end to it. And just as the defeat of the Zionist, colonialist, military war was realized and that episode of treachery and treason was foiled, the defeat of the hostile economic war will be realized. The hostile economic war, which is being waged by the United States of America, is running its course through hostile practices that are taking place abroad. Food, medicine, and everything that has to do with man's civilian and worldly life (the Iraqi citizen's right to culture and education and so forth) is being kept out of Iraq. Domestically, the hostile economic war is being manifested in an economic fifth column, which is trying to play its part in this war by spreading rumors and engaging in practices whose aim it is to destroy the economy. This fifth column is trying to affect the national currency of Iraq. It is trying to raise prices and to keep many goods and foods out of the market. In addition, these people engage in smuggling and in other practices, which are quite alien to national values and the national spirit. But our people were able to stand up to the aggressive economic war. With their awareness, patience, and steadfastness they withstood, thanks to the wise leadership of the president and leader, Saddam Husayn. Thanks to Saddam Husayn's leadership of the national resistance to the hostile economic war, prolonging the use of the ration card was a principal ingredient of the Iraqis' steadfastness and their continued patience and creativity. Thus, all foreign and domestic plots were foiled. Continued national resistance to the hostile economic war the United States is waging will play its part in crippling the enemies and expediting the move to get the international community to take action in favor of Iraq and to bring the unjust embargo to an end either once and for all or in stages.

The national role whose continuation is required to educate people, will be played by the party, by popular organizations, and by authentic Iraqi families. They are the ones who will set the right course for consumers, who will fight greedy elements, encourage the spirit of social solidarity, and strengthen people's patience which is buttressed by faith. These are the glorious days of transition that our people are going through. In going through this transition our people believe that the leader's wisdom and the nation's awareness will make 1995, with God's help, the year during which Iraq's victory on both sides of the economic war will be achieved. Iraq will achieve victory in the war that is being fought on the outside and orchestrated by America, and it will achieve victory in the war that is being fought inside the country: that war which is manifesting itself in suspect practices that are being carried out by an economic fifth column. This is the optimism of people who are patient and who are struggling for the cause of God.

*Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi Interviewed

95LH0091A Baghdad AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Jan 95 p 5

[Report on interview with Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, by Sana' Khalil al-Naqqash; place and date not given: "The American Enemy's Casualties in the Battle of the Tanks Forced It To Stop Fighting"—first paragraph is AL-JUMHURIYAH introduction]

[FBIS Translated Excerpts] We stood fast, though our enemies imagined resistance impossible, and were victorious, despite the awesome propaganda machine turned against our people. Our victory was legendary: the magnificent Iraqi army recorded the most impressive slaughter in the book of the Mother of all Battles when it was able to crush the American and allied forces during the first land battle, in which the aggressors tried to destroy it. Staff General Iyad Futayyih al-Rawi, army chief of staff and commander of the Republican Guard forces during the Mother of all Battles, spoke to us about this resistance and the great victory during an interview with AL-JUMHURIYAH.

[Al-Naqqash] How did the Iraqi army and the Republican Guard forces, who were particular targets, protect all of their forces?

[Al-Rawi] During the glorious Qadisiyah Saddam battles, our armed forces' fighters gained excellent combat experience lacked by many of today's armies. This experience was employed during the Mother of All Battles slaughter. In addition, the Warrior-Commander Saddam Husayn—may God preserve and protect him—gave orders to take all necessary measures to protect the soldiers, those from the army and the Republican Guards alike. His Excellency emphasized the need to dig in and fortify, as well as to disperse widely and use camouflage methods in combat. He also visited the Iraqi forces several times prior to the 30-nation aggression against our armed forces. I was with His Excellency on one of those visits, during which he inspected the Republican Guard and army forces and acquainted himself in detail with the measures that our armed forces personnel used to minimize the effect of the aggressor nations' forces, whether air or rocket forces.

Furthermore, the president—may God protect him—envisioned the size of the aggressor nations' air, rocket, ground, and naval forces and the extent of their effect on our armed forces. He therefore ordered construction of a fortified, defensive position for an infantry-regiment-sized force in the al-Tharthar area similar to part of our defensive positions in the Kuwait operations sector. After it was constructed, we put a number of animals in the shelters, trenches, and headquarters, and then mounted a strong attack against this position with air, artillery, rocket, tank, and infantry forces to learn the effect of the aggressor nations' rocket and air forces. After this experiment, the results were reported to the field, and any weaknesses in our defensive positions were rectified. These measures, carried out by those who fought in the Mother of all Battles' slaughter, were largely instrumental in minimizing the effect of the air, rocket, land, and naval forces during this 30-nation aggression. Our forces' commanders and fighters also played a major role in taking camouflage and other precautionary measures during the period when our forces were being shelled and bombed, particularly the Republican Guard forces. Their casualties during the enemy shelling and bombing were very light and consistent neither with the amount of time spent nor the size of the efforts exerted by the aggressor nations to affect the heroic forces of the Republican Guard. Never before has a force the size of the enemy's rocket and air forces, which bombarded the Iraqi forces defending their righteous homeland for over 40 days, been used against any army.

The Iraqi forces' soldiers are the descendants of Khaled Ibn al-Walid, 'Amr Ibn al-'As, and Sa'd Ibn Abi Waqqas, who during the time of the orthodox caliphs fought the two strongest empires of that day: the Roman and Persian empires. They defeated them and raised the banner "God is Great" through their unquestioning faith in God Almighty. God willing, we will be victorious during the era of our Warrior-Commander, aided by God, Saddam Husayn, may God preserve and protect him.

[Al-Naqqash] The principal land battles (Kuwait airport and southern Iraq) struck America a mighty blow that shook the U.S. public position. The greater blow came during the battle of the tanks in southern Iraq where the Iraqi army, especially its powerful vanguard, the Republican Guard, had the opportunity to join battle with the enemy, who then clamored for a ceasefire. Their presumption was defeated by superiority. How do you explain this?

[Al-Rawi] Our armed forces were capable of outstanding fighting during the land battle and the Kuwaiti airport battle where the Iraqi special forces were able to inflict heavy casualties on the aggressors, which they themselves admitted. The land battle of the tanks between the aggressor nations' forces, particularly the U.S. 7th Corps, and the heroic Republican Guard forces was a glorious battle in the history of our heroic army. This battle took place southwest of al-Basrah, where on 26 February 1991 I gave orders to the commander of the Republican Guards Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah forces to move from its location in front of the defensive position to the place assigned to it by the plan for defending al-Basrah city, which had earlier been scouted and prepared with defensive requirements. He in turn issued orders to the formation commanders to move to new positions. Within 45 minutes, the enemy had launched an extensive tank and aircraft attack against the Republican Guard Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah forces command's formations. A fierce battle ensued, during which the enemy sustained serious casualties, forcing it to stop and not pursue the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah forces. The situation remained calm after this, and the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah forces were able to reach the positions assigned to them.

Here we must mention that at 1645, the enemy dropped airborne troops inside the special forces sector, that is, at the same time the Tawakkalna 'Ala Allah forces command was attacked. There was an intense battle between the Republican Guard special forces command troops and the U.S. forces. The commander of the special forces informed me at that time that he had inflicted heavy casualties on them and his present position was good.

Although the situation stabilized on the night of 26-27 February 1991, the air and rocket shelling against our forces continued.

[Al-Naqqash] The criminal Bush said in a statement issued two years after the aggression that he was forced to call a unilateral ceasefire on 28 February 1991 because he knew that the U.S. forces could not sustain the casualties resulting from the land battles with Iraq. He also said that continuing on to Baghdad would have led them into a tragedy worse than the Vietnam tragedy. What happened on 28 February?

[Al-Rawi] On the morning of 27 February 1991, the weather was cloudy and rainy. Visibility was very limited; we could not see the target at a distance of 150 meters. At 0600, I issued orders to the Hammurabi forces command to move the 18th Republican Guard armored brigade to take up position behind the borders separating the 'Adnan forces command and the al-Madinah al-Munawwarah command in order to thwart the enemy's anticipated intentions.

He [al-Rawi] continues talking about the American enemy's heavy air and rocket shelling on the positions that morning, emphasizing that he had expected this heavy shelling, which was preparatory to the attack. So he issued orders at 0625 to all commands and rocket units to direct their artillery, rocket, and tank fire at the American enemy's forces. This shelling exchange continued until 10:00 [as published, a.m. or p.m. not specified] on 27 February. The American enemy's forces were able to occupy a regiment's positions in the 'Adnan forces command sector; the 'Adnan forces command launched a determined counterattack participated in by a tank battalion from the 17th Republican Guard armored brigade of the Republican Guard forces command. It forced the enemy to fall back to the rear and retake the fallen positions. The enemy sustained heavy tank and personnel losses, and a number of its aircraft were downed and their pilots captured. After this, the enemy tried to resume the attack on the 'Adnan forces, but was unsuccessful.

After the 'Adnan Republican Guard forces were able to thwart the American enemy's attack on its sector and inflict heavy losses, the enemy changed the direction of its attack. At 1220 on the 27th, it attacked the al-Madinah al—Munawwarah command and clashed with the positions of an armored brigade and the 14th Republican Guard mechanized infantry brigade. There were fierce tank battles, and the enemy was initially able to occupy the positions of a regiment of the 14th Republican Guard infantry brigade; however, the al-Madinah al-Munawwarah forces command launched a counterattack in which it used tank battalions from the 10th Republican Guard armored brigade and the 2d Republican Guard armored brigade. They forced the enemy to abandon the positions and retreat to the rear. After this, it tried to change the direction of its attack toward the positions of the 'Adnan forces command and the al-Madinah al-Munawwarah forces command (the borders between them). However, a tank battalion from the 17th Republican Guard brigade, Hammurabi forces command, mounted a determined attack and forced it to withdraw and change its attack direction.

The al-Madinah al-Munawwarah forces command's battle with the U.S. forces continued until the enemy broke off contact with our units and retreated to the rear. It began to engage our forces with artillery, aircraft, and rockets, with its units' shells falling in front of our forces' positions, a clear indication that the enemy had retreated far to the rear.

The general says that the land battle between the Republican Guard forces and the U.S. Seventh Corps is considered among the fiercest tank battles in history. The Americans themselves have said this, and international news agencies reported it at the time, as the Republican Guard forces' troops, confident of the leadership of their great commander Saddam Husayn (may God protect him), were able to halt the enemy's attack and force it to fall back to the rear in dismay. It was unable to achieve its goal of destroying the Republican Guard. [passage omitted]

The troops of the Arab Motherland's commander, Warrior Saddam Husayn (may God protect and preserve him), are his striking force to strike at the enemies of the homeland and the motherland, as well as the wicked and the traitors, in order to unify the Arab motherland and raise high always the streaming banner of "God is Great," God willing.

Gur: Egypt Trying To Exclude Nation From Regional Economy

TA0504054395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Deputy Defense Minister Mordekhay Gur says Egypt is working to exclude Israel from the Middle East economy despite the peace treaty between the two countries.

Speaking in Kefar Sava, the deputy defense minister said the Egyptians have caught on that Foreign Minister Peres has succeeded in his efforts to integrate Israel into the region's economy, and Cairo, therefore, he says, has launched an effort to foil that. Gur says Israel is receiving the information of the Egyptian effort from a series of Arab states. The deputy minister says Cairo fears that Israel will become an economic power, not just a military one, in the region.

New Security Procedures Started at Gaza Crossings

TA0504054695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The army's Southern Command has issued a series of new orders, including substantive changes in procedures, at the Gaza Strip crossings. The orders are aimed at improving the efficiency of the roadblocks in the area.

At the Erez checkpoint, special areas are to be built for checking trucks. In addition, agricultural produce for export will be transported on trucks belonging to Gaza Palestinians. After security inspections, they are to travel in one convoy escorted by the Israeli police. At the Qarmi crossing, in the Nahal 'Oz area leading to the Jewish settlement of Netzarim, setting up a market area has been proposed where the goods would be transferred to Israeli trucks. The deputy commander of the Israeli forces in the Gaza Strip told reporters it would be possible to check every vehicle and Palestinian laborer at the crossings. Some 500 soldiers are to be trained for the efforts, which will also include the use of sophisticated technology to locate explosive devices, arms, and ammunition and to decipher forged entry permits.

IDF Drafts Contingency Plan for West Bank

TA0504073595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Apr 95 p A1

[Report by military correspondent Eytan Rabin]

[FBIS Translated Text] The IDF's [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command has drafted a contingency plan in the event that the IDF does not withdraw its troops from the town centers in the West Bank due to either political or security constraints. The IDF is preparing for the eventuality that if the next phase of the agreement (dubbed "Spectrum B") is not implemented, there would be a surge in the level of violence in the West Bank. In that event, numerous troops would be expedited to the West Bank and the number of units operating in the area would be increased.

Brigade commanders in the West Bank said that Major General Ilan Biran, commander of the Central Command, had instructed them to prepare for a variety of eventualities in coordination with Major General Gabi Ofir, the commander of IDF troops in the West Bank. A senior military source explained that concurrently with the deliberations on the planned pullout from the center of towns in the West Bank, the Central Command has been preparing for the possibility that the political level might order it to remain there in contravention of the Declaration of Principles, which could lead to a surge in the level of violence.

Senior IDF officers, including Brigadier General Moti Biran, the Central Command's chief of staff, toured the West Bank two days ago. They inspected the sites to which the IDF would relocate if and when the "Spectrum B" plan is implemented. The IDF has not yet received the budget to implement the plan, except for 70 million shekels which the Treasury transferred to the IDF's Logistics Branch to buy the initial equipment. The cost of implementing "Spectrum B" is estimated at 1 billion shekels. This sum would cover the evacuation of boot camps in the West Bank, the construction of buildings for new brigades within Israel, the purchase of equipment, and the enhancement of the intelligence structure.

General Meets With Settlers on Redeployment

TA0604083895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The head of IDF [Israel Defense Forces] Central Command, Major General Ilan Biran, met last night with representatives of the council of Jewish communities in Judaea and Samaria. According to the settlers, the general assured them that there are no orders yet to redeploy in the West Bank.

Meanwhile, the Civil Administration has informed Abu-'Ala' [Ahmad Quray'], who holds the economic portfolio in the Palestinian Authority [PA], that the PA will not be allowed to build an office in the East Jerusalem neighborhood of Abu-Dis. In response, Abu-'Ala' said plans to build the office had been leaked to Qol Yisra'el as part of an attempt to damage the peace process.

The security forces have arrested some 40 Hebron residents over the last couple of months, suspected of throwing stones at Israeli vehicles. In addition, three Jewish residents of the town were detained by police yesterday for throwing stones. One of them attacked and lightly wounded a policeman.

IAI Denies Ofeq-3 Has Picture-Taking Capabilities

TA0604053295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Ofeq-3 satellite was successfully launched yesterday and is orbiting the earth every 90 minutes. Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] said last night that all systems on the Ofeq-3 are working normally. In the future it is expected that the satellite will be able to send accurate pictures from Arab states, but officials at IAI denied reports that Ofeq-3 already had such a capability. More on the satellite from reporter Alan Ben-'Ami:

The three-stage solid fuel Shavit rocket took off into space at 16 minutes past 1400 [1100 GMT] in the afternoon. The rocket with its tail of fire and smoke was easy to follow as it streaked into a sunny blue sky from the Palmahim launch site on Israel's Mediterranean coast. The latest Israeli satellite weighs 225 kg. It is circling the globe from east to west in 90 minutes and will operate at distances varying from 300 to 700 km away from earth. It is expected to stay in space for at least a year, but based on the performance of its predecessors, could continue functioning in space for well past its estimated life.

Ofeq-1 was launched in 1988 and Ofeq-2 in 1990. They were to pave the way for satellite No. 3, providing scientists on the ground with vital initial experimental data regarding launch techniques, space operation, and other factors. Ofeq-3 is similar in height and circumference to its predecessor: an octagonal-shaped satellite, 2.3 meters high, with a circumference at its widest point of 1.2 meters. But it weighs 189 kg, a little more than Ofeq-2 and requires considerably more power: an average of 180 watts, compared to 58 watts for its predecessor. The satellite will get its energy needs from the sun via solar panels. IAI was the main contractor in building the satellite, but other notable components came from other defense industries such as REFA'EL [Arms Development Authority], EL-OP, and Tadiran. The satellite will be operated according to instructions transmitted from its ground control station. The scientists say it will take three to five days to check all the systems and know if Ofeq-3 is operating as planned.

Although widely reputed to be Israel's first spy satellite in space, the official statement released after the launch said simply that Ofeq-3 is intended to test various technologies for scientific and commercial purposes.

Kakh Leader Ordered Under House Arrest for 6 Months

TA0504181895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Barukh Marzel, leader of the outlawed Kakh Movement, has been handed a six-month house arrest order signed by the commander of the Central Command. The order was issued after he turned himself in to the police today.

Our police affairs correspondent Aviv Bushinsky reports that today, a Jerusalem District Court judge found Marzel not guilty on the charge of holding an illegal rally some three years ago. The judge determined that there is not enough evidence to convict Marzel.

Netanyahu 'Sure' Likud To Agree on Internal Elections

TA0504055495 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Likud Chairman Binyamin Netanyahu says he is sure the Likud will be able to reach an agreement from within on the system of internal elections.

Netanyahu, speaking to Likud activists in Ari'el last night, was reacting to the threat by David Levi the night before to break away. Netanyahu asserted that the Likud will not return to the concept of camps from within. It was a mistake that shall not be repeated, he said. The Likud chairman said any member is entitled to present proposals on how to hold the internal elections and that deliberations are taking place currently on the matter.

Meanwhile, Qol Yisra'el has been told that Levi has already set up the infrastructure for a new party. It would be a centrist party which would stress social issues, though it would not be an ethnic party. Efforts are under way within the Likud to convince Levi to attend tomorrow's meeting of the Likud secretariat to present his proposals on the election system.

[Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 5 April in a page 1 report by Sarah Honig says that "Levi's demands to reserve slots for his faction on the next Likud slate of Knesset candidates has elicited similar demands from the former Liberals in the Likud." The report quotes "a source close to Netanyahu" as saying that "this, if anything, makes it all the more imperative for Netanyahu to stay firm and not yield to Levi's ultimatum, or he will face more of the same from the Liberals, and by that point there will be no putting the lid back on Pandora's box."]

Labor Launches Campaign To Boost Support for Peace

TA0504153795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Labor Party is launching a new campaign aimed at increasing support for the government and the peace process, dubbed "A Strong People Make Peace." On Friday, Labor Party activists are to be posted at central intersections throughout the country to show support for the government. The previous support campaign, "The People Are With the Peace," was initiated in response to the right's "The People Are With the Golan" campaign.

Peace Index Shows Increase in Support for Process

TA0504122595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 5 Apr 95 p B2

[Report by Aluf Ben]

[FBIS Translated Text] For the first time in months, the March findings of the Peace Index Project indicate a slight increase in public support for the peace process. These periodic surveys show that it is necessary to monitor public opinion on the peace issue as frequently as possible, because surveys conducted at too long an interval might yield a partial and even distorted picture of public trends.

The persistent decline in support for the peace process appeared to have been curbed already in February, after hitting rock bottom in January in the aftermath of the Bet Lid bombing. Indeed, data collected at the end of March point to a slight, albeit steady, improvement in some aspects of the public attitude toward the peace.

The general peace index, which gauges the degree of support for the regional peace process between Israel and the Arabs and the belief that comprehensive peace can be attained within the next few years, rose from 52.7 points in February to 56.1 points in March. At the same time, support for the Oslo agreement rose from 45.6 to 48.5 points, while support for the possibility of a full peace agreement with Syria that hinges on a full withdrawal from the Golan rose from 31.4 to 37.1 points (that is, 62.9 percent of the respondents objected to a full withdrawal in exchange for peace).

When asked about the possibility of an agreement based on a partial withdrawal from the Golan, the answers were as follows: 19.1 percent supported a full withdrawal in exchange for a full peace agreement, 34.8 percent supported a partial withdrawal in exchange for a full peace agreement, and 46.1 percent objected to any withdrawal whatsoever in exchange for a full peace agreement.

The March survey also gauged public opinion about separation between the Israelis and the Palestinians. The question, which was also posed in January, examined the respondents' agreement or disagreement with the following statement: "To reduce terror, Israelis must be separated from Palestinians. This would include totally stopping laborers from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip from working in Israel, building fences, or taking any other measures to separate between Israel and the Palestinians." Some 65 percent supported this statement in March (67.1 percent in January), 19.9 percent disagreed with it (18.9 percent in January), and 15.1 percent did not know or were neither in favor nor against it (13.8 percent in January).

These findings show that a large and stable majority of the Jewish public supports separation and that the public has not really changed its position on this issue since January.

In order to examine the attitude of the Jewish public toward the separation in a broader perspective, we added the following question in March: "What do you think about the following statement: From Israel's point of view, even if there is peace it would be better to have a clear and closed border with the Palestinian entity in order to create maximal separation between Israelis and Palestinians." Some 74.9 percent agreed with this assertion, 13.8 percent disagreed, and 11.3 percent had no clear opinion or were neither in favor nor against it. These findings confirm the argument that a broad consensus exists within the Jewish public that the long-term goal should be to aspire to maximal separation between the two peoples.

The third question on the issue examined the public's assessment of the damage or benefits the separation would cause in four areas: personal safety, state security, the economy, and the chances of peace. The findings show that the benefits are seen as outweighing the damage in all four areas. Particularly outstanding is the view that the separation will lead to an improvement in personal safety and national security. Some 76.3 percent said personal safety would grow, 12.2 percent said it would remain unchanged, and 7.3 percent said it would worsen; 73.1 percent said state security would improve, 12.7 percent said it would remain unchanged, and 9.1 percent said it would worsen; 45.9 percent said the economic situation would improve, 23 percent said it would remain unchanged, and 19.4 percent said it would worsen; 41.4 percent said the chances of peace would improve, 23 percent said they would remain unchanged, and 21.7 percent said they would worsen.

These findings once again underscore the utmost importance the public attaches to security considerations on the personal and national levels when measured against the attainment of peace and an improvement in the economic situation. Although a considerable number of respondents thought separation would help attain these goals, a similar percentage favored separation even if it did not enhance the chances of peace or if it hurt them.

The Peace Index Project is conducted by Tel Aviv University's Tami Steinmetz Center for Peace Research, headed by Professor Efrayim Ya'ar, Dr. Tamar Herman, and Prof. Arye Nadler. The data was collected by Modi'in Ezrahi in telephone interviews with 501 respondents, who represent a nationwide cross-section of Israel's Jewish population.

King Husayn's Activities in New York Reported

Meets Butrus-Ghali

JN0604080295 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 2100 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn today met with UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus-Ghali. [passage omitted]

Speaking to reporters following the meeting, his majesty the king confirmed Jordan's position on the question of peace. He said the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty has emphasized the firm Jordanian stand on the issue of mass destruction weapons in the region. His majesty called for making the entire region free of these weapons. His majesty expressed the hope that dialogue and understanding will lead to making the region free of mass destruction weapons.

For his part, Butrus Butrus-Ghali commended His Majesty King Husayn's role and effective efforts to realize a just, enduring, and comprehensive peace in the region. He said the Jordanian- sraeli peace treaty is a step toward realizing a comprehensive and just peaceful settlement. He noted that his meeting with His Majesty King Husayn will benefit the entire Middle East and boost UN efforts to accomplish a comprehensive and durable peace.

Addresses U.S. Foreign Policy Panel

JN0604071395 Amman Radio Jordan in English 0530 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Majesty King Husayn has said that he exerted his utmost efforts working for realizing a comprehensive and just settlement for the Arab-Israeli conflict. He majesty said achieving just and comprehensive solution to the Middle East problem is a prerequisite and a basic requirement for accomplishing stability, prosperity, and progress in the region.

His majesty's comments were made during a dinner banquet hosted on his honor last night by the National Committee on American Foreign Policy in New York.

He said Jordan provided an umbrella for the Palestinians to take part in the Middle East peace process. The king also said that under the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty, the kingdom restored all its territories and for the first time in history Jordan's internationally-recognized borders were defined and demarcated on ground.

His majesty earlier met with the permanent members of the Security Council as well as the United Nations Secretary General Butrus Butrus-Ghali. His majesty the king is expected to leave the United States for Canada later in the day.

King Says Tests Show 'No Trace' of Cancer

JN0504210395 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 2020 GMT 5 Apr 95

[From the "News at Ten" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His majesty the king was given a clean bill of health after medical tests in the United States.

The king said in a message to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, that all the tests he underwent have confirmed that no trace of cancer was found.

The king underwent a surgery to remove cancerous cells two years ago.

In his message, the king said, I quote, there was no indication that the cancer would reappear. Medical specialists unanimously concurred that I am now in excellent health and would only require annual medical examinations, end of quote.

Furthermore, the king said that other routine medical tests showed normal results including tests of the heart.

His majesty said he will always remember passionate feelings of Jordanians when he returned home from his cancer surgery at the Mayo Clinic. It was then, the king said, that he made up his mind to achieve for Jordanians an honorable peace. Such peace, the king said, restored to Jordanians their water, land, and other rights.

The regent congratulated the king on results of his medical tests and his full recovery. The regent said in a message to the king that Jordanians were always aware of the king's ability and insight, as well as his anxiety as he led the nation through the years.

The regent said the pace treaty with Israel and the circumstances that surrounded it further demonstrated the outstanding personality of the king and his deep vision and great achievements.

First Israeli Ambassador Arrives in Amman

JN0604102495 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1000 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Israel's first ambassador to Jordan since the two countries made peace last October has arrived here in Amman to take up his new post. The envoy, Shim'on Shamir, was received as he crossed the King Husayn Bridge by senior officials at the Foreign Ministry.

Meanwhile, Jordan's new ambassador to Israel Marwan al-Mu'ashshir was to enter Israel a few hours later to take up his assignment under the October 26 peace treaty.

Both men were to present their credentials and officially take up their posts on April 10th. The countries had been represented at charge d'affaires level since the treaty.

First Ambassador to Israel Airs Expectations

JN0604100895 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 6-7 Apr 95, pp 1, 7

["Special to the JORDAN TIMES" by Ghadir Tahir]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—Jordan's first ambassador to Israel, Marwan al-Mu'ashshir, crosses the Shaykh Husayn Bridge today to take up his post in Tel Aviv. There, the 38-year-old spokesman turned diplomat faces the challenges of building a peace burdened by a half-century legacy of hostility, faltering Palestinian-Israeli peace talks and eroding popular support for accommodation with the Jewish state.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir says he has no illusions about the challenges awaiting. "Jordan is fully committed to the peace treaty and to the implementation of all its articles but there is no doubt that building peace with Israel will be affected by what happens in the Palestinian track," he said.

In an interview with the JORDAN TIMES, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir explained that "if peace is to be permanent and comprehensive, the citizen of Jordan must feel that the Palestinian track is going in the right direction, and that the Palestinian component of the Arab- Israeli conflict is being tackled in an acceptable manner."

"Short of that, it is difficult to perceive a peace that develops from being on the official level to being on the popular level. Peace at the people's level will take a much longer time than that at the government level. That is normal."

The signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty last October "does not mean that Jordan has abandoned the principle of a comprehensive settlement." Dr. al-Mu'ashshir insists. He says "all concerned Arab parties took a strategic decision in Madrid to negotiate peace with Israel, regardless whether progress was simultaneous in all tracks." "However, he says circumstances may emerge once in a while that would require us to slow down our moves for building peace with Israel, without that meaning the abandonment of our commitment to implement the treaty."

Some senior ministers believe that Jordan should link the pace of normalisation with Israel to progress on the other tracks, especially the Palestinian-Israeli track and to the fulfillment of financial commitments to Jordan.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, a computer engineer, says that the signing of the treaty "does not mean there are no problems between us and Israel," pointing to the problems of refugees and displaced persons and the dispute over Jerusalem.

The former director of the Jordan Information bUreau in Washington D.C. points out that there were ongoing negotiations to conclude 24 agreements with Israel.

On Tuesday [4 April], Jordan and Israel signed the first economic agreement since the ratification of the peace treaty. Tourism ministers 'Abd al-Illah al-Khatib and 'Uzi Ba'ram signed an agreement which lifted a ceiling on the number of Israeli tourists allowed to visit Jordan and established a framework for cooperation in the field of tourism, including cooperation between the Royal Jordanian and El Al airlines.

But so far most Jordanians do not appear eager to get to know Israelis or deal with them, let alone visit them. More than 17,000 Israelis have visited Jordan while fewer than 2,000 Jordanians have been to Israel. The country's 12 professional union, representing 80,000 dentists, lawyers, nurses, engineers and doctors—have barred members from contact with Israelis.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir says the peace treaty is the beginning of a "long process of building peace and of transforming a peace negotiated between governments into a peace between people."

"Peace with people requires a much longer time—time to get over the suffering and pain, to remove the stereotypes they have built and people need to feel that the whole Arab-Israeli conflict, especially the Palestinian problems, has been solved satisfactorily. But to put things in the proper perspective, we have come a long way if we look at what has been achieved since Madrid compared to what we had before."

He said the declining enthusiasm for the peace process "is not a call to end the process but a call for reassessment, which is normal in view of what is happening in the Palestinian track."

"I believe a majority in Jordan still wants a peaceful solution to the problem," he stressed.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, a former spokesman for and member of the Jordanian negotiating team, said he believed that Jordan's peace with Israel was bound to be warmer than the one between Egypt and Israel due to "geographical and demographic" considerations.

"Peace with Jordan will be warmer and more interactive because the geography and demography of the situation dictate that. We share resources along the Jordan River. Many of our people live in the Jordan Valley. In that sense it will be warmer but it will be more problematic, especially in the initial stages, because the issues are more complex," said Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, who was chosen personally by His Majesty King Husayn.

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir, who will be heading a seven-member team and a total embassy staff of 25, summarised his main mission in Tel Aviv as preserving Jordanian interests in the continuing process of negotiations in implementing the Oct. 26 peace treaty, and representing Jordan's position on the various issues to the government and people of Israel.

According to Foreign Ministry sources, the staff at the Tel Aviv mission will include Foreign Ministry officials Zahi al-Sumadi (charge d'affaires), Ramiz al-Qusus (first secretary), Husayn Khayr (third secretary) and 'Umar al-Nahar (attache). From outside the Foreign Ministry, are Samiyah al-Kabariti (press attache), who has a degree in Hebrew studies, and 'Imad al-Fakhuri (research officer), who has an engineering and public policy degree from Harvard).

Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said part of his job was to "build bridges between Jordan and (Israelis Arabs) of 1948 who have not had such relations with us for a long time, in addition to strengthening cooperation with the Palestinian self-rule authority."

One of the main challenges he expects in Tel Aviv is dealing with an Israeli public opinion "which thinks that problems between Jordan and Israel have ended by the signing of the peace treaty."

On the personal level, "I consider making peace with a state we have been at war with for half a century a great challenge on the personal and official levels... We are determined to overcome this challenge and build a solid relationship," he said.

Asked whether he feared for his personal safety, Dr. al-Mu'ashshir said: "I am not worried about my personal safety. I did not receive any threats. The opposition is healthy and they are committed to playing the political game..."

"There are those who opposed my taking up this post, and they told me so and I appreciate their position. But there was never any question as to my person or my duty serving my state and people."

Authorities Arrest, Refuse To Release Hamas Official

TA0304085295 Gaza AL-WATAN in Arabic 30 Mar 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Amman, AL-WATAN—Informed Palestinian sources have said that the Jordanian security authorities have arrested one of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] senior cadres. The sources added that this person was arrested upon his arrival in Amman more than two weeks ago and that he is still being held in detention. The Jordanian authorities are refusing to release him. Moreover, they have not given any specific reasons for his arrest, nor have they made any specific charges against him.

The sources added that Hamas circles are viewing this step with dissatisfaction. It is being considered a negative development in the Jordanian authorities' interaction with Hamas and its leaders.

The sources stressed that this person had not carried out any anti-Jordanian activities and that he had only acted within the framework of Hamas' action against the Zionist occupation in the occupied West Bank.

Opposition Parties Condemn Turkish Moves in Iraq

JN0204091495 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 2 Apr p 26

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian opposition parties have condemned the Turkish invasion of northern Iraq and the resorting to violence and killing in settling the problem of Turkey's Kurds.

In a statement issued yesterday, a copy of which was made available to AL-DUSTUR, these parties have called for the immediate withdrawal of Turkish troops from the Iraqi territories because their staying there poses a real danger to Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity of its people. The statement also called on the Turkish Government to have recourse to democratic dialogue in solving the problem of Kurds in Turkey, discard violence and bloodshed, and work out an agreement with them. The statement described the Turkish military operation as an aggression against Iraq, a blunt encroachment upon its sovereignty, and a violation of human rights. It also said that the operation applies pressure on Iran and Syria and threatens their territorial integrity.

The statement was signed by the following parties: The Islamic Action Front party, the Pan-Arab Action Front, the Progressive Arab ba'th Party, the Jordanian Socialist Democratic Party, the Jordanian Communist Party, the Jordanian Peoples' Democratic Party-Hashd, the Jordanian Arab Democratic Party, the Jordanian Democratic Popular Unity Party, the Jordanian Democratic Progressive Party, the Constitutional Jordanian-Arab Front Party, and the Jordanian Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

U.S. Support Alleged

JN0504112595 Amman AL-BA'TH in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 5

[FBIS Translated Text] Jordanian opposition parties, having studied the Turkish forces barbaric military operation against the Kurds in northern Iraq and the perils it poses for the fraternal Iraqi people, have issued the following statement:

The Turkish forces are carrying out a large-scale military operation in northern Iraq under the pretext of hunting down the Kurdistan Workers Party [PKK] forces on Iraqi territory, using all kinds of ground and air weapons and tens of thousands of Turkish forces.

This operation is being carried out with U.S. support. This invasion is an aggression on Iraq and a flagrant violation of its territorial integrity. It also violates human rights as defenseless citizens are being killed by the Turkish army's bullets and missiles. This operation also brings pressure to bear on Iran and Syria and threatens their territorial integrity. Jalal Talabani exploited this military operation to call for official Turkish military interference to wrest Karkuk from Iraqi forces and share its oil with Turkey.

Turkey's military invasion of northern Iraq is happening at the same time international forces, under the pretext of protecting the Kurds, ban Iraqi forces from crossing into northern Iraq. This shows the contradictory nature of the stands of the UN Security Council and the United States.

The 11 Jordanian opposition parties condemn the Turkish invasion and denounce the U.S. stand on this operation. They call for the immediate withdrawal of Turkish forces from Iraqi territory because their stay there endangers Iraq's territorial integrity and the unity of its people. The opposition parties also call on the Turkish Government to resort to democratic dialogue to settle the Kurdish issue in Turkey, to abandon violence and the shedding of blood, and to reach an understanding with the Kurds.

The opposition parties also call for the lifting of the embargo on Iraq and condemn its perpetuation. They also call for spreading Iraq's legitimacy and sovereignty on its land in northern Iraq and call on the Arab League, all Arab and Islamic countries, and Arab and Islamic parties, political forces, trade unions, and organizations to adopt a firm stand against the Turkish military operation and against any measure that prevents Iraq from spreading its sovereignty and defending its territory and people.

Let the United States and its allies stop tampering with people's fate. Let them stop killing and starving the oppressed people.

Our Arab and Islamic nation will inevitably triumph over its enemies and regain all its rights.

Opposition Escalating Anti-Government Moves

JN0404161595 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 3 Apr 95 pp 1, 11

[Report by 'Abd-al-Rahman al-Khatib]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The arrest and investigation campaigns continue against members and supporters of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement since the attack against the French Embassy's second secretary and his wife in the Wadi al-Mawjib area more than a month ago.

AL-MAJD learned that the arrest and search campaigns covered all Jordanian governorates. It also learned that a number of detainees were released after questioning, while tens of Muslim Brotherhood members and sympathizers are still under arrest. [passage omitted]

In a related development, AL-MAJD has learned that the 11 opposition parties intend to escalate their opposition moves and activities against the Government.

An informed source said that these parties are currently formulating a new strategy—which includes sit-ins, marches, demonstrations, and news conferences—as a response to the practices of the Government and its agencies that belittle the opposition forces and deal with them and the masses with a militaristic mentality, which is not different from that which existed before the democratic change.

The Jordanian political parties opposing the march of capitulation, including the democratic leftist, Islamic, and pan- Arab forces, have discussed the policy of encroachment on the democratic freedoms that is being exercised by the government and its security agencies. This policy includes the indiscriminate arrest of scores of citizens from various areas, particularly in al- Karak, al-Tafilah, al-'Aqabah, Suwaylih, al-Zarqa', Irbid, and Amman. The security agencies are using the Wadi al-Mawjib incident, in which a western diplomat nearly lost his life, as a pretext. [passage omitted]

Crown Prince Visits Central Bank, Meets Governor

JN0404185095 Amman Radio Jordan in English 1700 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, has said that the visit of His majesty the king to the U.S. and the positive response of the American administration are the methods followed by the government on the highest levels, not only to maintain the kingdom's economic situation but also to move into a new threshold of economic achievement. His highness also said the kingdom's follow-up steps with the European Union countries and Japan are also for the same goal.

The remarks were made by his highness after a visit he made to the Central Bank of Jordan and a meeting with its Governor Dr. Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi.

The regent expressed his pride with the performance of the bank and other national institutions to protect the banking and financial situation and to keep up the stability of the exchange rate of the Jordan dinar.

His highness said: The meeting is part of the strong will to restore the spirit of the one economic and financial team.

Asked whether the meeting comes to take certain arrangements for the forthcoming Amman economic summit, his highness said: These objective meetings preceding the summit require us to recognize that on the investment level, Jordan does not issue new regulations alone. He went on to say that the government stresses to Arab or foreign investors that the Jordanian mentality is also capable of coordinating between the economic teamwork and the Jordanian financial institutions.

The regent added the visit to the bank is regarded a resumption for the march of economic development planning.

Buwayz on NPT, Israeli Blockade, 'Resistance'

NC0404132695 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 2 Apr 95 p 6

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by 'Abd-al-Salam 'Imran; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lebanese Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz has underlined his country's refusal to sign the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty [NPT] if Israel does not join it.

In an interview with AL-AHRAM, he said that the world realizes that different standards and criteria are used in dealing with issues and most countries do not prefer an indefinite extension of the treaty if countries that pose a major threat to world peace do not join it. He added that Israel is the only Middle East country that possesses nuclear weapons and therefore the nuclear countries must be asked to sign the treaty "first" so that nonnuclear countries can sign it next.

Buwayz asked: How can a country subjected to aggression be asked to give guarantees while the aggressor country remains free? They are asking Lebanon to drop the resistance card while Israel occupies its territories. We are being asked to limit our armaments while Israel is arming itself. They want us to give guarantees and security arrangements to the aggressor without giving us, who have lost our territories, the right to demand the necessary guarantees.

Buwayz also underlined his country's refusal to enter into secret negotiations with Israel. He said: We joined the peace process on clear and frank bases, namely Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, to achieve comprehensive peace. Israel has always exploited the secret negotiations to split and fragment the Arab ranks and therefore we do not want to give it another opening. He asserted that Lebanese-Syrian coordination will continue and expressed his belief that the conflict is basically an Arab-Israeli one and not a Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian, or Palestinian-Israeli one.

On the situation in Lebanon's southern ports, Buwayz said that the Israeli blockade of the ports is continuing and preventing fishermen from sailing to earn a living, thus causing bad economic consequences to this sector in addition to the negative psychological and political effects. He added that the blockade aims to pressure Lebanon so as to separate its track from the Syrian one and split the south from the other Lebanese areas so that the Lebanese people will feel that the resistance is costly and that the resistance is the cause of the Israeli aggressions when the fact is that the resistance is the natural outcome of the Israeli occupation.

On some southern Lebanese groups' opposition to any settlement with Israel and their insistence that weapons are the only way to end the occupation, the Lebanese foreign minister said: Israel has not so far encouraged anyone to believe in the possibility of reaching peaceful solutions. But if this does happen, then Lebanon will uphold security and stability in the south when full withdrawal is achieved.

In reply to a question on whether a settlement between Lebanon and Israel could result in a confrontation between the rejectionist groups and the Lebanese authorities, the Lebanese foreign minister said: I do not believe that resistance in Lebanon is a mere hobby. Israel's occupation of the south and the resultant oppression and aggression against the Lebanese people's dignity justify the rejection which is called resistance. Those who are martyred daily are not doing so for nothing but because they have a cause. The day the problem of the Israeli occupation is solved, then no one will allow his life, livelihood, and future to be threatened, as is the case now. He stressed that Lebanon will abide by the peaceful settlement because it now has a capable army, armed forces, and security forces to control the situation. He added: But, at the same time, no government can prevent anyone from resisting an occupier, especially when it cannot expel this occupier with its army and forces and when the international community fails to implement its resolutions. In such a case, the resistance replaces the international community's and the state's inability to use their own means for expelling the occupier.

Roundup of Military Activities in Southern Area

Israeli Shelling, 'Resistance' Attacks

NC0404163895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Tension prevails in the south after Israeli bombardment, air raids, and the naval blockade of the Tyre and al-Sarafand ports. The outskirts of Kafra, Yatar, Haris, and 'Ayta al-Jabal today came under a 120-mm and 155-mm artillery barrage from the Israeli positions in Jabal Humayd and Haddatha. The bombardment was accompanied by intensive flights by Israeli helicopters over the western and central sectors. The Israeli positions opened machine-gun fire at the villages of Bra'shit, Shaqra, and the environs of Qabrikha and Tulin.

The Lebanese Resistance Brigades stressed in a statement today that one of its groups carried out a large-scale assault involving the use of machine guns and rockets on the Israeli positions in Rshaf, causing considerable destruction to the enemy fortifications.

Agent Antoine Lahd militia [South Lebanese Army, SLA] radio admitted that two SLA personnel were injured during an attack by the resistance men at Sujud and al-Ghizlan positions. It also admitted that a Katyusha fell in the SLA position in Jabal Humayd. It also said that two Katyushas fell in the SLA position in Rshaf.

In the meantime, the Israeli gunboats continue their tight blockade of the Tyre and al-Sarafand ports. An Israeli gunboat cruised off Tyre and directed machine-gun fire at the coast near the al-Rashidiyah camp.

Israeli Shelling, Naval Blockade

NC0504165795 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Occupation forces [short break in transmission] the vicinity of the two posts and Kafr Rumman's eastern neighborhood with large-caliber machine guns.

The outskirts of Zawtar al-Gharbiyah and the al-Litani River basin came under Israeli artillery shelling originating from the enemy positions in (Mashru' al-Tayyibah) inside the occupied border strip.

At around 1700 today Kafr Rumman came under machine-gun fire from the occupation forces' posts in al-Tuhrah; the firing paralyzed traffic and kept people indoors.

Israeli military aircraft at noon twice overflew al-Nabatiyah and Iqlim al-Tuffah, reaching the capital Beirut at low altitude and breaking the sound barrier.

An Israeli pilotless MK reconnaissance aircraft overflew the area.

In Tyre, Israeli helicopters carried out mock raids and were confronted by the Lebanese Army's antiaircraft guns.

Elsewhere, the naval blockade of the southern coast is continuing. Vessels today cruised off southern shores, preventing fishermen from sailing off the ports of Sidon, Tyre, and al-Sarafand.

Amal Kills 1 SLA Soldier, Wounds 3

NC0604074595 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0315 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Amal Movement has announced that at 2345 yesterday, one of its groups used machine guns and rockets to attack the South Lebanese Army [SLA] post in 'Alman. Another Amal group simultaneously attacked the al-Shumariyah post. Violent clashes ensued between the attackers and the SLA personnel manning the two posts.

Voice of the South, the radio of the Lahd forces [SLA], announced that one SLA soldier was killed and three were wounded in these attacks.

Immediately afterward, Israeli artillery shelled Zawtar al-Sharqiyah, Zawtar al-Gharbiyah, Frun, al-Ghanduriyah, and Qa'qa'iyat al-Jisr with 122-mm and 155-mm shells.

Britain Maintains Travel Ban to Some Areas

NC0604065595 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] According to press reports, the British Government has turned down a request by the Lebanese Government to lift the ban on the travel of British tourists to certain areas in Lebanon, particularly Beirut's Southern Suburb, Southern Lebanon, and al-Biqa' valley. [passage omitted]

Damascus 'Sources': Peace Process 'Still Faltering'

MM0504105595 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 4 Apr 95 p 3

[Report by Salwa al-Ustuwani: "Syria Stresses Washington Negotiations Continue To Falter"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus—It is clear from the conflicting statements issued by the Syrians and the Israelis that the peace process is still faltering, despite the U.S. Administration's assertions that some kind of progress has been made in the current Washington negotiations between Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim and Israeli Ambassador Itamar Rabinovich.

This is what authoritative sources in Damascus have said. Meanwhile U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher pointed for the first time to the achievement of important progress in the negotiations—progress which represents an encouragement for the United States. He also said that the negotiations had achieved progress inspiring optimism. And he said that the parties were conducting very serious negotiations dealing with all peace steps, including withdrawal, the schedule for withdrawal, the timing for normalizing relations, and the speed at which normalization should be conducted.

But Syria believes that Israel is discussing everything relating to the peace process and the Washington negotiations on the Syrian track except for its commitment to withdraw from the Golan and southern Lebanon. Syrian officials say that the Israelis are submitting written proposals which ostensibly appear to be good, but that anyone who reads them discovers that the last point tends to torpedo what precedes it. And the Israelis talk about withdrawing from the Golan, but at the same time they talk about the early- warning points, ignoring this vague issue.

Damascus is criticizing Israel for its intransigent positions despite Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's statements to the effect that a peace agreement with Syria would spare Israel the continued bloodshed in Lebanon, and that the only way to stop the attacks is through a political solution with Syria and Lebanon.

A Syrian official has told AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Israel's statements on peace still fall within the policy of putting all contradictions in one basket, so as to enable Israel to secure agreements remote from the foundations and principles of a just and comprehensive peace and to achieve the security pretexts to which it is adhering, without relinquishing its occupation of the Golan and southern Lebanon.

The Syrian official points out that Syria certainly does not agree to the presence of early-warning points on its territory for any foreign army, not just for Israel's. Because that harms Syrian security and sovereign issues. Moreover Syria absolutely refuses to discuss any matters concerning the Syrian Army's size or armament, because this issue too falls within Syria's security sovereignty. It is Syria that makes the decisions regarding Army matters. And Syria does not believe that this issue is negotiable with Israel, the U.S. broker, or any other state. Syria believes that it is entitled to arm itself, since the occupation still exists on its territory.

The Syrian official believes that security arrangements do not concern Syria alone, and that security guarantees should not be seen the requirement of the Israelis alone. The land occupied is Syrian territory, and the side that needs security guarantees is Syria, not Israel. He said: We informed Christopher clearly that any talks on security measures must involve the two parties, and that any talks on demilitarized zones and withdrawals behind the border must involve the two parties. If the Israelis fear a Syrian Army overlooking Tiberias and Galilee, the only guarantee that should be offered to the region is peace and stability. That is, a just and comprehensive peace. Any other guarantees would remain ink on paper and merely temporary measures unless all Middle East issues are tackled in accordance with the logic of international legitimacy.

The Syrian official pointed out that Damascus, despite its absolute desire for peace, is in no hurry to embark on distorted settlements. And that Damascus is not in the position of Israel or the United States. Nor does it believe that it is concerned with talking about the possibility of the Israeli Likud opposition's return to power, a faltering of the negotiations, or the U.S. elections.

On the presence of Palestinian opposition factions on Syrian territory, which Christopher discussed with the Syrian leadership in Damascus, the Syrian official said that Damascus rejecets any discussion of the issue concerning the presence or activities of Palestinian opposition factions on its territory. And that Damascus had explained to Christopher that it refuses to discuss what is termed Syria's support for terrorist forces in the region, because it believes and realizes that the people's right to their territories and their defense is a matter on which its view differs from Washington's. Washington and Israel have an identical view on this issue, and Syria realizes and believes that those whose land has been occupied should fight by all known means to liberate it.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi Receives Pakistani Minister

JN0504133995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Makhdum Shahabuddin, Pakistani minister of state for economic affairs and finance, and his delegation at 1100 today.

The meeting was attended by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs and the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus.

Shahabuddin conveyed greetings of Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to Mahmud al-Zu'bi who asked him to convey his regards to her.

Talks at the meeting dealt with activities of the Syrian-Pakistani joint committee and relations of cooperation between the two friendly states and ways of developing them.

Joint Committee Signs Cooperation Minutes

JN0504214995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 2015 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The joint Syrian-Pakistani committee for economic, trade, educational, scientific, technical, and cultural cooperation this evening signed the minutes of its third round of meetings.

The minutes were signed at the State Planning Committee by Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahim al-Subay'i, minister of state for planning affairs, and Makhdum Shahabuddin, Pakistani minister of state for economic affairs and finance. Dr. Tawfiq Isma'il, assistant planning minister, the Pakistani ambassador in Damascus, and members of the two sides attended the signing ceremony.

The minutes provide for bolstering bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, technical, cultural, industrial, tourist, and agricultural areas. Expressing satisfaction with the efforts being made to increase trade, the two sides stressed the need to exchange commercial exhibitions and business delegations between the two countries.

The two sides agreed to cooperate in the agricultural, industrial, and technological fields and to seek to establish joint ventures in the various sectors.

In the field of educational and cultural cooperation, both sides agreed to expedite finalizing and signing the executive program of the cultural cooperation agreement and the draft agreement on scientific and technical cooperation and improving telephone links and postal services between the two countries.

After the signing, the heads of the two sides exchanged cordial speeches in which they stressed the importance of continuing efforts to implement the articles of the minutes of the agreement in the service of the two countries' mutual interests.

Al-Shar' Receives Swedish Envoy, Invitation to Visit

JN0504131595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Steen Andersson, the Swedish special envoy to the Middle East and former Swedish foreign minister. [passage omitted]

Andersson conveyed the greetings of the Swedish Government to the President Hafiz al-Asad, and delivered a message to the foreign minister from Swedish Foreign Minister Lena Hjelm-Wallen.

Talks dealt with latest developments in the peace process. The Swedish envoy expressed support for Syria's just demands for full withdrawal and equal and parallel [mutawazi] security in order to realize just and comprehensive peace in the region based on implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and the principle of land for peace. Talks also dealt with bilateral relations and ways of expanding and developing them in various fields.

Andersson conveyed an invitation to al-Shar' to visit Sweden at the earliest possible opportunity.

Al-Ahmar Addresses Meeting on Peace, Solidarity

JN0304162995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Under the patronage of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad, the opening meeting of the Arab Center for Strategic Studies [ACSS] was inaugurated at the al-Asad Library this morning. Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, deputized for al-Asad in the inauguration of the meeting. [passage omitted]

Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, the representative of His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad and assistant secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, gave the speech of the meeting's sponsor, President Hafiz al-Asad. At the beginning of his speech, comrade al-Ahmar welcomed the invitees, both brothers and friends, to this meeting dedicated to the declaration of the establishment of the ACSS, which is supervised and directed by [former Yemeni] President 'Ali Nasir Muhammad. [passage omitted]

The president's representative spoke about the Arab situation at this stage and which has witnessed great deterioration. He said: This deterioration is aggravated when we see some Arabs offering free concessions to Israel, which is still occupying the land and usurping rights. Whoever offer concessions to it becomes a tool with which Israel carries out its schemes to dominate the region and its resources. He said the crises, deterioration, and weakness in the Arab situation is a direct result of the absence of unity and solidarity. He called for cleansing the Arab atmosphere, transcending marginal differences, and pooling Arab efforts and capabilities and focusing them on the main tasks that are related to their defense of their existence and future. He called for boosting Arab solidarity in order to take strides toward unity, which can be achieved through the contribution of all and through their common, free volition removed from any compulsion or coercion and based on the fact that unity is a natural right of the nation and that it is a guarantee to safeguard their existence and defend their future.

Comrade al-Ahmar went on to say: Since the inception of the blessed Corrective Movement, Syria, led by struggler President Hafiz al-Asad, has called for pooling Arab energies in order to stand up to major dangers and challenges facing the Arab nation and restore the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. He noted that the majority of world countries are gearing toward cooperation, integration, and unity. He said: We, as an Arab nation, should realize solidarity, consolidate our ranks, and unify stands and our will in order to overcome hardships and challenges and realize the pan-Arab goals of the Arab nation.

He added: Arab solidarity is a militant and strategic requirement demanded by Arab masses to provide the prerequisites of power and effective means of confronting our nation's enemies. It is a guarantee that correct Arab decisions will be made. It is also an effective weapon to preserve Arab rights. He said: Syria has worked and will continue to work for the restoration and enhancement of solidarity as one of its priorities. President Hafiz al-Asad's efforts and his many initiatives best speak for this position. The most recent initiative was his efforts that succeeded in defusing the crisis between the two sisterly states: Yemen and Saudi Arabia. These efforts led to the working out of a memorandum of understanding as a step toward the final solution of the crisis which could have, had it exploded, harmed the two sisterly countries and the higher interests of the Arab nation.

The president's representative said that a just and comprehensive peace in our region based on international legitimacy and the application of its resolutions is our strategic goal at this stage. This peace can be realized only through terminating Israel's occupation of the Arab land in the Golan until the 4 June 1967 lines, in southern Lebanon, and in the Palestinian territories; putting an end to wars and threats; and removing all that may lead to them, including the stockpiling of mass destruction and nuclear weapons. This should be done in a way that will provide security, stability, and peace to all the region's peoples and countries.

Comrade al-Ahmar added: The peace process, which started in Madrid more than three years ago, is now stumbling and is threatened with collapse because Israel, since the commencement of this process, has been mounting hurdles to shackle the continuation of this process and its success. Israel has deviated from this process and moved toward partial and separate deals that accomplish its interests, without paying any attention to the interests of Arab parties and returning their lands and rights. Syria, which has contributed effectively in order to help this peace process succeed and reach its goals of establishing a just and comprehensive peace, has managed, despite all obstacles mounted by Israel, to give a new chance to the efforts being made by the U.S. sponsor to help this process meet success. Syria hopes Israel will respond favorably and commit itself to the implementation of international resolutions and respond to the aspirations and efforts of the international community to accomplish the aspired peace in this region. However, Syria, under all circumstances, adheres to the constants of this process—constants that served as the springboard for this process. Syria is committed to its rights and will never bargain, relinquish, or cede an inch of the land or any right. There can be no peace without full withdrawal from the Golan and southern Lebanon. There will be no peace without Syria.

Concluding, he said: May the sponsorship of struggler President Hafiz al-Asad of the declaration of this new pan-Arab enterprise, the ACSS, be a source of strength and success to this effort in serving our unified Arab nation, which advocates an eternal message.

Assembly Speaker Takes Part in CSCM Meeting

JN2903213995 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1915 GMT 29 Mar 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid—The working group of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in the Mediterranean [CSCM] held a meeting today in which Speaker of the People's Assembly 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah took part. The meeting was held within the framework of the Inter-Parliamentary Union conference currently held in the Spanish capital.

The meeting dealt with the agenda of the second CSCM which will be held in November this year.

Qaddurah stressed the importance of this conference in boosting security in the Mediterranean.

Qaddurah met with the speaker of the Spanish parliament and discussed with him prospects of cooperation and security in the Mediterranean basin and bilateral relations.

The People's Assembly delegation also took part in the Islamic parliaments' group meeting called by the Iranian Consultative Assembly. Qaddurah stressed the Syrian People's Assembly support for setting up an organization of Islamic parliaments that would take part, as an international group, in the meetings of the Inter- Parliamentary Union conferences and defend the issues of concern to Islamic and Arab parliaments.

In another development, Ahmad al-Ahmad, People's Assembly member, spoke on behalf of the Syrian Parliamentary delegation. He emphasized that producing and stockpiling weapons in the region portends further catastrophes, especially since nuclear weapons are possessed by parties seeking hegemony and domination, like Israel. Al-Ahmad said there has to be a collective action in order to develop the bases of international law so that it will keep abreast of all the developments resulting from natural or man-made catastrophes. He stressed the need for reaching practical deterrent action and international legal grounds to face any developments.

Speaks on Peace, Other Issues

JN0104091395 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Madrid—People's Assembly Speaker 'Abd-al-Qadir Qaddurah has stressed that a just, comprehensive, and balanced [mutawazin] peace in the Middle East is a true peace that can last and guarantee the interests and rights of all sides.

Addressing the 93d conference of the Inter-Parliamentary Union [IPU] currently held in Madrid, he said: Syria has officially stressed, through its leader President Hafiz al-Asad, that it is an advocate of peace and committed to the bases and principles of the peace process which was launched on the basis of the Israeli withdrawal from all the occupied territories in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, and 425 and the peace-for- land principle.

Qaddurah spoke about the Arab-Israeli conflict and the exacerbating situation in the Middle East caused by Israeli intransigence, and Israel's repressive and settlement policies in the occupied Arab territories, its refusal to heed the resolutions of international legitimacy, and its procrastination at the peace talks.

The People's Assembly speaker said: There is not much call for optimism concerning the major issues of interest to the world and its peoples. Crises are created here and there, the existing crises are exacerbating instead of reaching a satisfactory end, hunger is spread, those who are under the poverty line number hundreds of millions, the North-South dialogue produces useless speeches and useless talk about intentions, and the unemployment figures are frustrating. This is particularly true since we know that development plans in the Third World cannot continue because of shortages of materials and funds, the burdens of foreign debts, and the deprivation of developed technology or the obstruction of ways to obtain it.

Qaddurah met on the sidelines of the conference, in the presence of Shakir Is'ayyid, head of the Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, with Kuwaiti Parliament Speaker Ahmad 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'dun, Algerian National Transitional Council Chairman Abdelqadir Ben Saleh, and the head of the Libyan delegation. The talks dealt with the agenda of the sixth conference of the Inter-Arab Parliamentary Union scheduled to be held in Rabat from 3-5 April.

Qaddurah stressed the need to coordinate stands and efforts to render the conference a success.

Qaddurah also met with (Tzadskov), head of the Russian parliamentary delegation. The talks dealt with the meetings of the 93d IPU conference and bilateral ties.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Notes 'Disappointment' Over UN Warning

LD0604092495 Tehran IRNA in English 0846 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, April 6, IRNA—Afghan government has expressed its "disappointment" over the warning of the United Nations for withdrawing its recognition to President Borhanoddin Rabbani if he continued to avoid power transfer.

"If he meant what has been reported that is indeed disappointing," Rabbani's special envoy Mas'ud Khalili told IRNA of a reported comments of U.N. special envoy Mahmoud Mestiri.

Mestiri reportedly told a western news agency that world body would snap its links with Rabbani if he continued to delay the power transfer. Rabbani's two-year extended term in office ran out in December last but, so far, there are no signs of his relinquishing the power.

Khalili said Rabbani has, "time and again" expressed his willingness to step down but, "he could not do so single-handedly."

Mestiri had announced power transfer in Kabul to be held on March 21 but it could not take place because of lack of agreement among Afghan factions on interim set-up.

Khalili Criticizes Rabbani, Peace Plan

MM0604091895 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 5 Apr 95 p 1

[Report on interview with Unity Party leader 'Abdol Karim Khalili by Ahmad Muwaffaq Zaydan in Mazar-e Sharif; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Mazar-e-Sharif (northern Afghanistan)—'Abdol Karim Khalili, the new leader of the Shiite pro-Iran Afghan Unity Party, has ruled out the partition of Afghanistan on an ethnic or sectarian basis. In the first press interview since his election as party leader, he told AL-HAYAH: "We support the unity of Afghanistan and the preservation of all Afghan territory, and we reject partition. The martyrdom of 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari, the late leader of the party, was a disaster for all Afghan nationalities and sects." He held 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf and Ahmad Shah Mas'ud responsible for killing Mazari.

In the interview, given at the party's headquarters in Mazar-e-Sharif, Khalili said: "The Taleban Movement is a new phenomenon we hope will not be repeated because the Afghan infighting is not ethnic or sectarian."

AL-HAYAH asked him about the fate of the party's wing which entered into an alliance with the Afghan Government. He replied: "The Unity Party is attached to all the Afghan people and is not against any particular group. The martyrdom of Mazari proved that the party is the people's party. We hope that the individuals and members of the Central Council who split from their people will return. The way is still open for them to repent and shoulder their responsibility."

Asked if the party has any plans to return to its positions southwest of Kabul from which they were recently driven out, he replied that "the Unity Party is a broad base and our people are still standing firm west of Kabul. They are living under the terrorism of the Shura Council (chaired by former Defense Minister Ahmad Shah Mas'ud) and the forces allied with it.... We will seek to save our people. We will not forget them and will endeavor to stop the crimes committed against them."

Khalili believes that the international peace plan "is unrealistic and is not suitable for the Afghan situation. The formation of the Shura Council on a proportion-of-the-population basis is more important. The previous administrative divisions were unfair, and we believe that similar proposals would fail. We backed and supported the UN plan in the past but this new proposal constitutes injustice to our people."

The new leader of the Unity Party criticized the policy of President Rabbani, "who has demonstrated that his deeds are contrary to his words. He is not prepared to give up power and respond to the international peace plan."

Khalili ruled out talk of partition. He said: "We want a united Afghanistan and are against partition. The martyrdom of Mazari was a disaster for all Afghan nationalities, including the Pashtos, Uzbeks, Tajiks, and Hazarah (Shiites). Everyone has been affected by what Taleban did. That is something new to the Afghan people, who reject persecution and injustice. We believe that social justice and an end to injustice is the solution. The current fighting in Afghanistan is neither sectarian nor ethnic."

The Unity Party leader expressed regret that Islamic Party leader Golboddin Hekmatyar "withdrew from south Kabul without telling us. He contacted martyr Mazari in Jaharsiab [as transliterated] to inform him of the matter, even though both parties had decided to defend the area." He added: "We believe that the leaders of Hekmatyar's party showed no will to fight, and that is why the withdrawal was sudden."

In conclusion, Khalili said: "There are foreign hands behind the Taleban Movement. There can be no doubt that their action against Islam and national unity and against the Unity Party is national and Islamic high treason. What they did was treason by Islamic and national standards." But he refused to name these [foreign] forces. He said: "We are at the stage of collecting evidence. We have learned that some individuals linked to Islamic Union leaders 'Abdol Rasul Sayyaf and Mas'ud infiltrated Taleban and killed Mazari."

Rabbani Addresses Kabul University Opening

LD0504174195 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Dari 1630 GMT 4 Apr 95

[Speech by President Borhanoddin Rabbani at the opening ceremony of Kabul University on 4 April—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted]

Dear teachers of Kabul University, students, brothers, and guests, peace be upon you. In our country's cultural and historical life today is an important day. [Passage indistinct]

We are confident that our country does not take its orders from any foreign country. So far as our nation and the Islamic state are concerned, national sovereignty exists in its entirety. Despite all the problems, contrary to some countries that do not have political independence, national determination, and are linked to foreign countries, in Afghanistan we depend on ourselves in terms of national independence and determination. Our problems are caused by the fact that we want to live independently. We want our national determination to belong to us and not to be subservient to this or that country. [Passage indistinct]

As our country fought bravely against colonial, ideological, and military goals of the former Soviet Union, we are confident that in the present conditions our nation would take effective steps toward national progress and development as well. We are confident that our country not only has military strength, but our past history attests to the fact that our country has produced scholars whose books and works were read across the world. We are confident that, God willing, our country will be able to overcome the problems of backwardness with a great scientific renaissance. We believe that our university and its teachers and students will be the vanguard of this movement.

Dear brothers and sisters, we have been facing problems. Whether we shall call the fighting that has been going on in our country a civil war or not, the reality is that after the victory, fighting in our country was not a civil war. The fighting was a foreign conspiracy through which it was desired to defame the mojahedin. It was desired to bring about bloody clashes among our country's different ethnic groups, which have lived next to one another for ages. It was desired for bloody fighting to take place in Afghanistan on the basis of language, tribes, and religion. [Passage indistinct] The fighting was not between the Sunni and Shia. It was not between the Pashtun and Hazara, Tajik and Uzbek, Baluch and Nuristani. As a matter of fact the war was and is between the enemies of national unity of Afghanistan and the people of Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan have never been separate from one another on the basis of religion, tribe, and race. During the jihad years Pashtun and Tajik, Hazara and Uzbek, Sunni and Shia all stood in the same trench, and they all stand in the same trench to reconstruct their country. The fighting that occurred in the west of Kabul where the Kabul University is situated was not between nationalities. There were some hands that wanted to engage those nationalities in fighting against one another. In fact Shia and Sunni and Tajik and Hazara lived with one another in the west of Kabul and other parts of our country. Yesterday's problems in the west of Kabul have nothing to do with heroic Hazara nation. The Hazara nation heroically fought jihad alongside other nationalities of the country. They stand by one another today also and will do so tomorrow as well.

We believe that other nationalities do not think the fighting in the west of Kabul was between this or that nationality, because the clashes did not only occur in the west of Kabul. There were clashes in the south of Kabul, in the east of Kabul, and in other places. Anyway, the clashes were not among the followers of different religions in Afghanistan or different Muslim nationalities. We reassure all our brothers in the west of Kabul, who were under siege, to hold one another's hand and work for the consolidation of national sovereignty, unity, and the Islamic revolution basis; for the reconstruction of our beloved country; and for the rebuilding of an Islamic, independent, and united Afghanistan. We are sure that unless there were foreign interferences, unless foreign plots were executed in our country, none of the inhabitants of this country would have confronted one another. Anyway those painful days have gone now. We hope that they shall not be repeated. [Words indistinct] and invade the sanctuary of our national unity and divide our faithful nation by various pretexts.

Dear brothers and sisters, our country suffers from much destruction. These destructions put a lot of responsibility on our nation's shoulders. But the biggest problem is our scientific and morale problem. After the bloody coup d'etats, one of the most dangerous manifestations of the aliens aggression in our country was the disruption and defeat of our educational environment. [Passage omitted]

We believe that ensuring the security in Afghanistan will lead to ensuring the security in the region. And the lack of security in Afghanistan will lead to the lack of security in the region. [Words indistinct] we manifested that the Islamic state is not a state of revenge. In the very first days we declared that henceforward we have no cause for fighting against anybody and announced a general amnesty for those who served as collaborators of the former Soviet Union and who as the murderers of our people stood in the fighting trenches against our people and country. Prison doors were shut. Definitely there is no political prison in our country. Even the number of the criminal prisoners is also very small since the establishment of Islamic state. [Passage indistinct] Despite the fact that we live in the conditions of conspiracy, in terms of political freedoms, in the Islamic state everyone can and will be able to freely criticize the state and government. And no-one will be prosecuted for criticizing the government.

We, as the Islamic state, have always fought against terrorism, and we refused to allow Afghanistan to become a base of terrorist groups from different countries who wanted to turn some areas into terrorist bases. For many years we faced clashes with terrorist elements. After their defeat those bases have been eliminated. Despite the problems we faced, the state started its fight against drug trafficking right from the beginning. And a large amount of drugs have been captured and destroyed by the government officials in many provinces. We took practical steps to ensure peace in the region. Despite the incorrect propaganda which alleged that the headaches in Tajikistan had been led by Afghanistan, I personally paid a visit to Tajikistan to remove this problem, and practical steps were taken. The existing security and stability in Tajikistan has been the result of the very profound cooperation of the Islamic state with the Tajik Government and the opposition. It has also resulted in peace and national reconciliation in Tajikistan. We never wanted to bring about a headache in any part of the world. We hope that by realizing this fact no more problems will be hatched in our country from outside so that our country will be able to take fundamental steps toward reconstruction.

We believe our people need national unity. My advice to the heroic and faithful people, especially to the scientific and cultural centers, is to fight against regional and linguistic hostilities. I will take the time of friends and brothers no more. This said, I ask forgiveness for myself and for you; indeed He is the most forgiving and merciful.

Bangladesh

Foreign Office Reacts to 'Irresponsible Comments'

BK0504154695 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1500 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Bangladesh has emphatically stated that no Bangladeshi nationals are illegally staying in India. This was stated by a Foreign Office spokesman in Dhaka today when his attention was drawn to some recent statements made in this regard by the Shiv Sena chief, Bal Thackeray. He added that Bangladesh is observing the situation with grave concern and seriousness. The spokesman described this claim made by Mr. Thackeray as totally baseless. He added that Bangladesh is aware of the severe criticism that Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao and other Indian leaders have made regarding the statement of the Shiv Sena chief. The spokesman said that this is entirely an internal affair of India and expressed the hope that New Delhi will take necessary measures to face any probable severe reaction to this type of irresponsible comments.

Military Criticizes 'Fabricated' Media Coverage

BK0604081295 Hong Kong AFP in English 0503 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dhaka, April 6 (AFP)—Bangladesh's powerful military attacked press coverage of its actions Thursday [6 April], criticizing what it called "imaginary, confusing, wrong and motivated reports."

The appeal follows news reports that top brass could be linked to the alleged murder of the leader of a failed coup in 1981, Major General Abul Manzur, who was killed in mysterious circumstances.

"Patriotic and conscious people... as well as the members of the armed forces do not expect publication of misleading, fabricated and motivated reports in the mass media in the interest of objective journalism," a defence ministry statement said.

It said it was regrettable that "the patriotic people were being misled by the publication of imaginary, confusing, wrong and motivated reports and information in a section of the press about the army."

"The responsible and patriotic mass media of the country is requested to cross-check the authenticity and reliability of their reports" before publication, the ministry added.

It was the military's second appeal to exercise caution in reporting since the murder investigation into the death of Manzur started more than a month ago.

The military, which ruled Bangladesh directly or indirectly between 1975 and 1990, is still considered a political power to reckon with.

Manzur was killed following the 1981 abortive coup in the southeastern port city of Chittagong in which then-president Ziaur Rahman was killed. Rahman was the husband of current Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Those arrested and questioned so far are mostly retired army officers, including former chief of the defence forces intelligence, Major General Muhammad Abdul Latif. Formal charges have yet to be brought.

Recent press reports, quoting investigating team sources, alleged that several of the top defence brass could also be linked to the murder. The reports also said deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad might also be implicated in the case.

Ershad, who was the army chief during the abortive coup, seized power in a bloodless coup a year later, but is now in jail on graft and other charges. He stepped down in 1990 in the face of a mass pro-democracy uprising.

Defence sources said officers and troops, who thought they had restored their tarnished image during the past four years, felt humiliated by the press reports.

"Everyone is talking about it at their own levels and the general impression seems that their image is at threat again," one mid-level defence source said.

Editorial Urges Emphasis on Nontraditional Exports

BK0504115995 Dhaka DAINIK ITTEFAQ in Bengali 18 Mar 95 p 2

[Editorial: "The Country's Import-Export Situation"]

[FBIS Translated Text] There has been a 20 percent increase in the country's export earnings over the last five years. Export Promotion Bureau statistics show that the balance of trade is only in favor of Bangladesh in the case of two countries. The bureau did not take fluctuations in the currency rates into consideration. These two countries are Iran and Nepal. In our trade with the remaining countries, the balance is not in our favor. It is true that we have expanded our export market to 107 countries. Immediately after our country's independence, we exported products to 67 countries. The export market has expanded, but Bangladesh must still bear the burden of a trade deficit. There is even an imbalance in our trade with Bhutan. Over the past two years, we imported goods worth 415.10 million taka from Bhutan and only exported goods worth 24.30 million taka to that country. With India, the ratio of our trade imbalance is 31:1. Apart from this, there is also smuggling. It is impossible to estimate the amount of goods being smuggled into our country. With Pakistan, the ratio of our trade imbalance is 3:1. Until 1985, the balance of trade with Pakistan was in our favor. There are no signs of any reduction in this trade imbalance even after the signing of the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement agreement by the SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] countries.

Export Promotion Bureau statistics further show that we are now able to meet 60 percent of the total cost of our imports from export earnings. The bureau has also expressed optimism that if the economic programs are properly implemented it will be possible to meet the cost of 80 percent of our total imports from export earnings within the next five years. This optimism does not seem realistic. It is known that the government has made attempts to hide its failures by expressing such optimism on several occasions. It has been observed that there is great demand for our nontraditional goods as opposed to traditional products in the export market. Apart from garments, the majority of nontraditional items are agro-based products. It is unfortunate that agricultural products were neglected for so long. Great emphasis has been given to the industrial sector ever since the time of the erstwhile Pakistani regime. Several billion taka in loans were given to the industrial sector. As it has not been possible to recover these loans in the majority of the cases, these loans have threatened the existence of the industries. It has become impossible for jute mills, textile mills, railways, the machine tools factory at Joydevpur, and other industries to bear the burden of recurring losses. Our match industry is incurring losses within the country. The blades manufactured in the country do not have a domestic market. Needless to say, under these circumstances priority should be given to exploring markets for our nontraditional goods.

India

Rao Given 'Free Hand' in 'Rejuvenating' Congress

BK0604030695 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The extended Congress-I Working Committee [CWC] has authorized the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, to reorganize the party, including the CWC, AICC [All India Congress-I Committee], and pradesh [state] Congress-I committees to gear them up for the next Lok Sabha elections. A unanimous resolution adopted by the CWC at its meeting at New Delhi yesterday called for giving the party president a free hand in rejuvenating the party. The CWC has also decided to meet next week to fix the date and venue for the AICC meeting.

The resolution cautioned the people in general and Congressmen in particular against the challenges from communal, casteists, fascists, and secessionist forces. It called upon them to decisively defeat such elements. Expressing deep appreciation of the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, the Working Committee urged him to enforce discipline.

Later, briefing newsmen, the party spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said the CWC analyzed the performance of the party in the recent assembly elections. Several members attributed the party's poor performance in some states to the alleged misuse of TADA [Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act], indiscipline, communal riots, corruption, and failing to effectively communicate the achievements of the party to the people. Some speakers demanded that TADA should be replaced.

On economic reforms, the CWC suggested to review the priorities without adversely affecting them. It was also suggested that the essential items like wheat, coarse rice, edible oil, and pulses should be made available to the poor through fair price shops.

On the Babri Masjid [mosque] issue, the participants by and large expressed the view that the matter should be left to the judiciary.

Earlier, the party president, Mr. Narasimha Rao, called for a careful assessment of the outcome of the recent assembly elections to draw up a comprehensive action plan for the future.

Article Alleges 'Deal' on Kashmir Border

BK0604035995 Bombay THE TIMES OF INDIA in English 4 Apr 95 p 12

[Article by P.N. Dhar: "LoC As Border—Bhutto's Deal With Mrs Gandhi"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The overriding consideration for India at the Simla conference was to put an end to its adversarial relations with Pakistan and to forge an instrument that would help to build a structure of durable peace between the two countries. But to translate the idea into negotiable points was no easy task for D.P. Dhar and Aziz Ahmed, the emissaries appointed by the two governments to prepare the ground for the conference. They met in April 1977 at Murree and after three days of hard bargaining produced two documents: an agenda for the conference and an agreed set of principles that should guide the negotiations at Simla.

The principles were meant to generate an appropriate ethos for the summit meeting between the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi and President Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto. Recognising the need for establishment of durable peace and 'ending of military conflict' and 'the desirability of diverting resources towards development,' the principles demanded willingness to think afresh and cast aside the shackles of past policies.

In pursuance of this, the Indian side took note of the traditional Pakistani view that there could be no enduring peace and stability in the sub-continent unless the Kashmir problem was settled and decided to persuade Pakistan to address the issue. At first, Pakistan resisted discussion on this subject. Its priorities were determined by the events related to the emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign state. Bhutto was especially concerned with the return of the territories and prisoners of war taken by India during the military conflict of 1971.

More Feasible

On Kashmir, Pakistan strongly felt that it would be more feasible to first try and settle other, less emotionally charged disputes step by step and to take up the Kashmir question later. This approach, they believed, would generate a friendly atmosphere and a favourable public opinion for acceptance of a solution of the problem which would necessarily have to be a compromise.

India, though willing to take up the issues of occupied territories and prisoners of war, was keen, in addition, to solve long-term problems, Kashmir in particular. India itself had advocated the step-by-step approach in the past but this had not yielded the desired results. This time India was determined that the Simla conference should not turn into a replica of the Tashkent conference which addressed the immediate problems created by the war of 1965 without tackling the basic reasons that gave rise to it. To break this impasse, Bhutto agreed to negotiate on long-term problems, his code name for Kashmir, provided that the solution, if arrived at, was implemented gradually in a piecemeal manner and in step with improvement in overall Indo-Pak relations.

To understand the political climate prevalent in the sub-continent in July 1972 when the Simla conference was held, it is necessary to recall the events that preceded it—events that altered some basic perceptions the Pakistani leadership held dear.

The emergence of Bangladesh as a sovereign state had brought out sharply the inadequacy of religion as the sole basis of nationality. It also repudiated the two nation theory and struck a deadly blow to Pakistan's claim, implicit as well as explicit, that it spoke on behalf of the Muslims of the sub-continent. Bhutto was acutely conscious of this fundamental change of context and he stated this frankly in his preliminary conversation with Mrs Gandhi.

Bhutto Convinced

Furthermore, Bhutto said that he was convinced by the events of 1971 that Pakistan could not acquire Kashmir by military intervention. "Kashmir troubles me a lot," Bhutto said. He did not want its dark shadow looming over Indo-Pak relations. He wanted his countrymen to get over the trauma of the emergence of its eastern wing as a separate independent state as quickly as possible and concentrate on making the residual Pakistan a prosperous country. Therefore, Bhutto was personally inclined to accept the status quo as a permanent solution of the Kashmir problem. He had, however, several constraints in this regard which he spelt out as follows:

(a) His political enemies at home and, especially, the army bosses would denounce him for surrendering what many in Pakistan considered their vital national interest. This would endanger the democratic set-up which had emerged after 14 years of army rule. In this context, Bhutto repeatedly talked about his fear of what he called the Lahore lobby, though he never clearly explained what it was.

(b) He was anxious to carry the support of all political elements in Pakistan in favour of any agreement that emerged at Simla. He wanted all members of the delegation, representing the entire political spectrum of Pakistan, to support and be committed to the outcome of the conference. He said that there should be no dissenters in his delegation when he left Simla.

Bhutto was very keen to have the support of Aziz Ahmed who led Pakistan's negotiating team. Ahmed was the seniormost civil servant of Pakistan and carried great weight in the ranks of its civil service. He had also a reputation for being a hardliner. Ahmed's support would, according to Bhutto, secure him the support of the bureaucracy which constituted a very powerful segment of Pakistan's political elite.

Aziz Ahmed was against the enlargement of the agenda to include Kashmir. But he yielded ground when the Indian side explained that it was not insisting on an immediate and formal acceptance of the status quo which they believed could be looked upon as the imposition of harsh terms by the victor in war. The Indian side felt that such a move might nurture a revanchist ideology in Pakistan. They reminded themselves of the consequence of the Treaty of Versailles and were against doing anything which could be the basis of another war.

Low Key

The Indian side, therefore, put its proposal in a low key and in an indirect manner by proposing that the name of the line dividing India and Pakistan in Jammu & Kashmir be changed from the 'cease-fire line' to the 'line of control' [LoC]. Aziz Ahmed objected to this. He pointed out, quite rightly, that the proposed change of terminology would mean a change in the status of the line. Aziz Ahmed put forth this view vehemently and stated that he was not prepared to accept the change in the nomenclature of the line.

But this change was the core of the Indian solution to the Kashmir problem; the de facto line of control was to be graduated to the level of the de jure border. Since no agreement was reached on this point, negotiations were called off and the curtain came down on five days of hectic talks which had begun with great hopes throughout the subcontinent. This was the afternoon of July 2 and the Pakistani delegation was scheduled to leave the next morning. Soon the word spread that the conference had failed. Mediamen rushed to announce the failure.

In the midst of this developing gloom, Bhutto asked to see Mrs Gandhi and a meeting was fixed for 6 p.m. at the 'Retreat' where she was staying. When Bhutto came to see Mrs Gandhi, he met P.N. Haksar and me briefly and said, "You officials give up too easily". Mrs Gandhi and Bhutto met for an hour while Haksar and I waited in the adjoining room.

Emerging from the meeting, Bhutto looked very pleased and said that "we have settled the matter and decided to give you some work to do before dinner". After he left, Mrs Gandhi briefed us on what transpired. At their meeting Mrs Gandhi told Bhutto that she was sympathetic to his concerns and that she would hate to appear to be dictating terms to a defeated adversary. She agreed to the earliest possible withdrawal of troops from occupied territories in the interest of an overall agreement.

Mrs Gandhi elaborated the merits of the Indian proposal in the following terms: it was the only feasible solution. An important feature of the proposal was that neither country was gaining or losing territory on account of the war. It also did not involve any transfer of population from one side to the other. Kashmiris as an ethnic community were left undivided on the Indian side. The line of control was, therefore, an ethnic and linguistic frontier. In fact, in 1947, at the time of partition, it was also an ideological frontier, being the limit of the political influence of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and his National Conference party. True, there were some anomalies in this otherwise neatly (?cinched) picture but these, Mrs Gandhi pointed out, could be removed by mutual consent.

Long Reflection

Bhutto responded with feeling and apparent sincerity. After long and agonising reflection, Bhutto said he had come to the conclusion that the Indian proposal was the only feasible one. But he could not agree to incorporating it in the Agreement for the reasons he had stated earlier. He would, however, work towards its implementation in practice and over time. Mrs Gandhi herself was worried that a formal withdrawal of the Indian claim on Pak-occupied Kashmir could create political trouble for her. She agreed that the solution should not be recorded in the Agreement for reasons advanced by Bhutto, but it should be gradually implemented as he had suggested.

It was also agreed that the understanding would not be a written one. The insertion of secret clauses in the Agreement was considered inconsistent with the desire to build a structure of durable peace. It was decided, however, that the Agreement would be worded in a manner that would facilitate the implementation of the understanding. This resulted in some last-minute negotiations which were carried on during the return banquet of the President of Pakistan on the eve of his departure for his country.

Thus, several clauses included in the Agreement had to be drafted and redrafted in a way that would provide the context in which the Agreement was to be read and implemented. The most important of these was sub-clause 4 (ii), which says: "In Jammu and Kashmir, the line of control resulting from the ceasefire of December 17, 1971, shall be respected by both sides without prejudice to the recognised position of either side. Neither side shall seek to alter it unilaterally, irrespective of mutual differences and legal interpretations. Both sides further undertake "to refrain from the threat or the use of force in violation of this line". The phrase "without prejudice to the recognised position of either side" was a concession to Bhutto to save him from his domestic critics. But to prevent the abuse of this concession and to lay the foundation for a future settlement of the Kashmir issue, the second and third sentences had to be incorporated and the sub-clause is, therefore, to be read as a whole.

Observers' View

And this is how it was interpreted by observers who followed the negotiations closely. Peter Hezelhurst, the London TIMES correspondent, writing under the title 'Concessions at Simla Summit bring hope for deal on Kashmir,' described the Agreement "as a historic breakthrough in the protracted efforts to resolve the differences between the estranged Asian neighbours during the past 25 years". Interpreting sub-clause 4 (ii) referred to above, he wrote, "Apparently this will mean that Pakistan has agreed to settle the Kashmir issue bilaterally with India and President Bhutto of Pakistan will not raise the dispute in the United Nations if he keeps to the spirit of the Agreement. This would appear to be an important concession to Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, who has advocated bilateralism as the meant of settling Kashmir and other disputes with Pakistan... The Agreement also stipulates that both parties have agree to recognise the cease-fire line in Kashmir as it stood at the conclusion of the war in December, and convert it into a line of peace". (THE TIMES, London, July 4 1972).

Bhutto agreed not only to change the ceasefire line into a line of control, for which he had earlier proposed the term 'line of peace' but also agreed that the line would be gradually endowed with the "characteristics of an international border" (his words). The transition was to take place in the following manner. After the resumption of traffic between India and Pakistan across the international border had gained momentum, movement of traffic would be allowed at specified points across the line of control. At these points of entry, immigration control and customs clearance offices would be established. Furthermore, Pakistan-occupied Kashmir would be incorporated into Pakistan. To begin with, Bhutto's party would set up its branches there and later the area would be taken over by the administration. India would make pro forma protests in a low key. (This is what actually happened in 1974 when Bhutto constitutionally made a PoK [Pakistan-occupied Kashmir] a province of Pakistan without much protest from India).

It was thought that with the gradual use of the LOC as a de facto frontier, public opinion on both sides would be reconciled to its permanence. Meanwhile, the opening of trade and commerce and cooperation between India and Pakistan would result in easing tensions between the two countries. When Mrs Gandhi, after recounting their points of agreement, finally asked Bhutto, "Is this the understanding on which we will proceed?," he replied, "Absolutely, Aap muih par bharosa keejiye [you can trust me]".

News Analysis

One of Bhutto's aides, who was also very close to the Americans, briefed Mr James P. Sterba, the NEW YORK TIMES correspondent, fully on the understanding that his boss had reached with Mrs Gandhi. In his news analysis, which appeared within hours of the signing of the Agreement, Mr Sterba, after referring to the inflexible positions of the two governments on the Kashmir problem, wrote, "President Bhutto, Pakistan's first civilian leader in 14 years, came to Simla ready to compromise. According to sources close to him, he was willing to forsake the Indian-held two-thirds of Kashmir that contains four-fifths of the population and the prized valley, called the vale, and agree that a ceasefire line—to be negotiated—would gradually become the border between the two countries. The key word is 'gradually'. President Bhutto wants a softening of the cease-fire line—with trade and travel across it—and a secret agreement with Mrs Gandhi that a formally recognised border would emerge after a few years, during which he would condition his people to it without riots and an overthrow of his government". (The Simla Agreement—Behind the Progress Reports There is the Possibility of a Secret Agreement, THE NEW YORK TIMES, July 3, 1972)

Launching Pad

This was the understanding between the leaders of the two countries and this was the Simla solution of the Kashmir problem. The Agreement that was signed in Simla in the first hour of July 3, 1992 [as published], was the launching pad for the implementation of the Simla solution. Some Pakistanis maintain that the recent events in Kashmir have overtaken the Agreement while Indians insist that the dispute should be resolved through bilateral negotiations as stipulated under it. This debate misses the crucial point that the Simla Agreement provided not only a mechanism for the solution of the Kashmir problem but it also envisaged the solution itself.

The Simla solution seemed the only way in which the political leadership of the two countries could resolve their conflicting claims over Kashmir. It is still the only way that remains open to them. To be sure, aspirations of the Valley Muslims need to be satisfied. The Indira-Abdullah Accord, which was an answer to this question, has come unstuck owing largely to the growth of Muslim fundamentalism and the massive intervention of Pakistan in flagrant violation of Simla commitments. If Pakistan accepts the Simla solution, the Kashmir problem will be reduced to manageable proportions. It will simply become an internal problem, one of altering the existing Centre-state relations in a manner that will satisfy Kashmiri demand for more genuine autonomy.

Iran

'Tense Climate' Reported in Towns South of Tehran

'Hundreds' Reportedly Dead, Injured

TA0504171295 Jerusalem Israel Television Channel 1 Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 5 Apr 95

[Announcer-read report]

[FBIS Translated Text] A tense climate is pervading several towns south of Tehran in the wake of violent disturbances resulting from the tumultuous demonstrations that erupted yesterday in a number of Iranian towns in protest against skyrocketing prices and the increasing cost of services provided by the government to the citizens. The bloody clashes between the security forces and the demonstrators have resulted in the death and injury of hundreds of people.

Reports from Tehran indicate that tens of thousands of security personnel have been deployed in the streets of the Iranian capital for several days as a precaution against demonstrations and the general discontent pervading in Iran due to the deteriorating economic situation.

Police Beef Up Security

NC0504121295 Paris AFP in English 1126 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Akbarabad, Iran, April 5 (AFP)—Armed riot police patrolled two suburbs of Tehran on Wednesday [5 April] where an eerie calm reigned after riots in which several people were killed and dozens more wounded by security forces.

Plain-clothes police arrested a number of young men in the centre of Akbarabad, a poor suburb where witnesses said security forces shot dead at least 10 demonstrators and wounded dozens more in a riot over price rises Tuesday.

Security was also tight in Islamshahr, about 10 kilometres (six miles) away, following clashes in which a petrol station was set ablaze, bank windows smashed and a government refrigerated warehouse pillaged.

Authorities did not give any details of casualties in the riots.

About 100 people besieged the main police station in Islamshahr seeking news of the victims, and about 50 did the same in Akbarabad on Wednesday.

Security forces guarded the two hospitals of Islamshahr, preventing an AFP correspondent from entering.

Iranian television showed pictures of several thousand pro-government demonstrators marching through Islamshahr on Wednesday.

Witnesses said anti-riot units of the Revolutionary Guards militia opened fire Tuesday to disperse a crowd of several hundred demonstrators in Akbarabad who were protesting against public transport price hikes caused by a doubling in fuel costs and against water shortages.

Iranian newspapers played down the unrest, referring only to the arrest of several "hooligans" and "troublemakers" who had damaged public buildings and vehicles.

Clandestine Radio on Islamshahr Riots

NC0504201795 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 1700 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] [Words indistinct] many students joined the demonstrators. At the same time uprising and protests ignited in Islamshahr and Soltanabad [words indistinct].

Two gas stations were set alight in Pol-e Chalus and two vehicles belonging to the office of the filthy Friday imam of this city were set ablaze. The building of the anti-Islamic propagation department and the Melli shoe company store were also destroyed as they were targeted by the people's incessant attacks. The Guidance [Ministry] office was destroyed. Wherever the regime's agents were seen, they could not escape the people's revenge. In Islamshahr, the lackey head of the Education and Training Ministry was injured.

In Akbarabad, bank buildings were set alight by the valiant demonstrators. The Salehabad Municipality [words indistinct] and the municipality of the second precinct were destroyed in the powerful attack by the masses. The extent of the relentless attack by the deprived people of southern Tehran swiftly spread toward [words distinct]. They rendered the Revolution Guards and all other repressive forces who were armed to the teeth helpless; the hallowed flames of the disgusted people continue to spread.

But the regime's agents fired at the defenseless and unarmed people with no holds barred. They embarked on the massacre of the people, who have reached the end of their tether, just as they were instructed by Khamene'i and Hashemi-Rafsanjani. A report states that by 1400 yesterday the number of martyrs of the heroic and extensive demonstrations by the people of Islamshahr and Akbarabad had reached dozens, with hundreds wounded.

The criminal Revolution Guards transferred the bodies of the martyrs killed in cold blood to a Law Enforcement forces base. Eyewitnesses report that the body of one of those killed earlier in the day as a result of the savage firing by the guards lay on the roadside in Akbarabad until 1400 as testimony to the atrocities and brutality of the ruling clerics.

A report from Soltanabad states that the deprived and disgusted people of this city also rose up and joined the uprising on Tuesday [4 April], shouting slogans of "Death to Khamene'i" and "Death to Hashemi-Rafsanjani" and battering the enemies' centers. The various branches of the regime's banks in Soltanabad, the telecommunications office of this township, as well as the municipality were the targets of the attacks by our compatriots, who demolished them.

In Soltanabad, the clerical regime trembled at the participation by the masses and the tempest of their wrath and hatred, and resorted to killing. A report states that by noon, 20 of our heroic and proud compatriots were martyred in this township and numerous others were wounded. Eyewitnesses state that during the extensive uprising in south Tehran, young supporters of the Resistance [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization] led the demonstrations and [words indistinct].

When the close ranks of the demonstrators were marching on the streets in the deprived areas of south Tehran, the clerical regime used bulldozers of the Law Enforcement forces and fired on the protesting men and women from above. Again it has displayed the height of its savagery and its impotent fear at the spread of these demonstrations throughout Tehran.

According to a report [words indistinct], no news of the exact number of those martyred or wounded in yesterday's demonstrations has been received. The heroic uprising of the people of south Tehran is a major defeat for the Khomeyni regime, which had put all its repressive forces on alert in Tehran's streets two weeks ago to prevent such incidents. The residents of Akbarabad stated that the uprising of this deprived, tyrannized, and forgotten district has only just begun.

Yes, this is only the beginning. Very soon the day of the auspicious government will dawn with the uprising of the people all over Iran and the final attack of the National Liberation Army. The grand day of the liberation and victory of the Iranian people over this banal and misanthropic regime is approaching. Then the criminal ruling clerics, along with all their brutes and guards, will meet their nemesis! The day when the new president, Maryam Rajavi, is installed in Tehran and the era of the people's freedom and sovereignty will be inaugurated is not too far off.

O disgusted people of Iran, compatriots who are victims of repression, tyranny, and plunder, who are fed up of high prices and hunger, it is time to rise up. It is time to join hands to tackle the clerics once and for all and to ignite the flames of rebellion wherever possible.

Islamshahr Residents Protest Rioters' Actions

LD0504123095 Tehran IRNA in English 1158 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Islamshahr, Tehran, April 5, IRNA—A group of residents in this southwestern suburb of the capital staged a rally Wednesday [5 April] in condemnation of yesterday's riots in the township.

A large number of students, basijis (volunteers) and local theologians participated in the rally organized by the Association of Muslim Students.

The marchers, chanting slogans such as 'Islamshahr is awake and hates rioters', 'Death to the U.S.', 'Death to Britain' and 'Death to Israel', voiced their support for the sacred system of Islamic Republic and Iranian officials. 'Long live Khamene'i', and 'Long live Hashemi' were among other slogans chanted by the marchers.

Yesterday, a group of residents of Islamshahr held a gathering in one of the main streets of the district in protest against shortage of drinking water. The suburb has no piped water network and drinking water is brought there by tankers and sold for 4,000 rials per 1,000 liters.

Later, the demonstrators gathered in front of Vali-ye Asr mosque in Islamshahr, condemning the rioters and calling for punishment of those responsible for the unrest. Addressing the gathering, the Friday prayers leader of Islamshahr, Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammad Nowruzi announced that the residents of the township backed the Islamic Republic and its officials. He said those who went on rampage in Islamshahr, setting ablaze government buildings and plundering people's assets were not residents of the township. The actions perpetrated by the rioters and their attacks on certain places betrayed their premeditated scheme to foment unrest in Islamshahr, he said.

The people of Islamshahr, who have been the vanguards of the Islamic revolution and been among the first pioneers rushing to the battle fronts during the Iraqi imposed war, will severely confront any acts that may be against the security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, he said. [passage omitted]

U.S. 'Campaign' Against Nation 'Exercise in Futility'

LD0504134295 Tehran IRNA in English 1213 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] United Nations, New York, April 5, IRNA—Iran's mission to the United Nations announced here Tuesday [4 April] that the recent campaign of the U.S. officials against Iran in the Persian Gulf states, Moscow and Washington has become a "self-defeating exercise in futility which convinces no one."

The mission in a statement released here, stressed that observations like Iranian acquisition of a nuclear reactor was a "threat to their neighbors, which include Russia," or other similarly ostensible statements by U.S. officials are perceived around the world as politically tented and without any real substance."

"Other observations by U.S. officials that Iran's acceptance of the NPT and its compliance with IAEA's safeguard regime is not sufficient really goes beyond universally accepted norms and rules of inter-state behavior," added the statement.

It noted that compliance with rules of international law which has been developed and codified in the common wisdom of the entire international community should always be not only sufficient but also ideal.

"The United States administration puts itself above the law when its officials play the self-appointed role of the final arbiter of sufficiency or insufficiency of rules of international law when it is fully complied with in a particular case," noted the statement.

"Arguing that why Iran should need nuclear energy when it has oil could only be advanced by a clearly self-interested U.S. politician who conveniently neglects the fact that the same question could technically be applied to his own country," the statement noted.

Such argument, said the statement, "is made in careless and total disregard for both the letter and the spirit of the treaty on the non-proliferation of nuclear weapons which stipulates in Article 4: ...all the parties to the treaty undertake to facilitate, and have the right to participate in, the peaceful uses of nuclear energy..."

The U.S. policy which was a violation of this undertaking in itself, attempted to prevent others from honoring their commitments under the treaty, concluded the statement.

Diplomat Assails West's 'Hostile' Attitude on NPT

LD0504134895 Tehran IRNA in English 1239 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad, Apr. 5, IRNA—Iranian ambassador to Islamabad Mehdi Akhundzadeh has blasted western countries for their hostile attitude towards Iran despite the fact that its all nuclear installations were under the international safeguards. Speaking at the two-day international seminar on, "nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia," Tuesday he said Iran had put its nuclear facilities under supervision of the International Atomic Energy Agency and its nuclear program was entirely for peaceful purposes.

He said circumstantial evidence existed that some nuclear weapon states had turned a blind eye to the clandestine activities of their friendly states. He referred to Israel which was the "the sole de facto nuclear power," in the Middle East and also enjoyed overwhelming superiority in conventional weapons over all its Arab neighbours combined.

"Such a discriminatory situation in the region can lead to skepticism towards the role and future of N.P.T. by the regional states."

In his final analysis, Akhundzadeh said N.P.T. should eventually be extended indefinitely once all the obligations and rights set forth in the treaty were fully implemented and realized.

Paper Assails U.S. 'Duplicity' Over Nuclear Issue

LD0504084495 Tehran IRNA in English 0742 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, April 5, IRNA—An English daily here Wednesday [5 April] touched on Moscow's rebuff to Washington and said the U.S. officials must remember that other nations, too, have interests and that their national interests cannot play second fiddle to the U.S. national interest.

The morning daily 'TEHRAN TIMES' in its editorial wrote that the next time the U.S. officials go around the world in their futile exercise of hypocrisy, they must remember the fact that different nations have their own national interests which cannot play second fiddle to the U.S. national interests or the immoral goal of starting a smear campaign against Iran in order to appease the Zionist regime or to cover up a peace process that once appeared as a prince in shining armor but has ended up in tatters.

American officials, the daily said, are under the impression that by pressuring other countries they are going to get the desired effect, yet the fact is that countries such as Germany, France and Russia resent being told what to do.

Although these countries have friendly relations with Washington, they hate being told that the course of actions they have taken with Iran is wrong, the daily commented. Hence washington call has invariably fallen on deaf ears, added the editorial.

15 years after the Islamic revolution which put an end to American influence, the U.S. Administration seems unable to forgive Iran for the impertinence to throw off the shackles of American imperialism, said the daily.

"Moreover, since the U.S. officials are unable to ram the Mideast 'peace deal' down the Arab throats they point to Iran as the cause of their failure to broker peace", the daily said. The paper added that since other countries do not have the bitter memory of Iran which the American officials have they do not share the same perception of Iran as the Clinton administration.

These nations also see through American duplicity that the U.S. is not as much concerned with Iran's nuclear weapons as it is with losing its monopoly on the sale and transfer of nuclear technology to developing countries.

According to the daily Moscow will see to it that its cooperation with Iran will bear fruit in the field of nuclear cooperation. So when the U.S. is rebuffed by Moscow one can easily detect a certain sense of cynicism in Moscow that the U.S. wants to prevent Russia from gaining a foothold in the Middle East, the daily concluded.

Overall Result of Perry's Visit to Russia Viewed

LD0404150395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 4 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry, on Monday April 3d, at the end of his talks with Moscow's officials, addressed a press conference, saying that his visit to Russia had negative as well as positive results.

What is being referred to in the remarks of U.S. defense secretary as negative results of his trip to Moscow is in fact a hint to yet another failure of the U.S. officials in confessing officials of Moscow into halting nuclear cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI]. Controversy over Tehran-Moscow cooperation in the use of nuclear energy for power production is there regarded as major access of Washington's propaganda war against IRI.

It should be said that Washington has so far used different excuses, such as violation of human rights and Iran's alleged support for international terrorism, as a pretext to obtain its political goals against Iran. What is certain is that U.S. has anyhow attempted to prevent Iran from continuing its independent foreign relations by exerting political propaganda and economic pressure on the IRI. The U.S. eventually tries to weaken IRI by using threats and different methods of propaganda war. The U.S.' current efforts should also be evaluated in this way.

This time, however, the U.S. [word indistinct] officials have been defeated in propaganda campaigning the area of the diplomatic relations, also, face a cold and negative reaction.

Informed observers hold that failure of the U.S. in convincing Moscow into halting nuclear cooperation with Tehran had not been unexpected, because, within the framework of the current principles of diplomatic relations, the U.S. provocations are basically indecent. And in the eye of the independent countries has invalid practice [as heard]. That is so, especially when officials in Moscow have repeatedly pointed out that Moscow's relations with the IRI has taken form on the basis of respect for the principle of political independence and within the framework of international common law. As such, expansion of Tehran-Moscow relations is in no way regarded as a threat against the interest of a third country or security of the region.

At any rate, ceaseless efforts and massive propaganda of the U.S. against the IRI, which experience such subversive moves in many occasions during the past 15 years, are not new phenomenon. [Word indistinct] this once again will do nothing for the American officials but defeat greater than ever before.

Moscow Radio Denies U.S. Claims on Nuclear Weapons

LD0504145195 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Moscow, April 5, IRNA—Experts in the Russian counter-espionage service and the Russian Atomic Energy Agency rejected as baseless the United States' secret report to Russian officials about Iran's so-called attempts to produce nuclear weapons.

In a commentary on the recent propaganda of the U.S. over Iran-Russia nuclear cooperation, Radio Echo Moscow said on Tuesday [4 April] that experts in the Russian counter-espionage service reject Washington's claims on Iran's capability to produce nuclear weapons in five years.

According to the experts, there is no reason for Russia to change its stance towards Iran.

The radio said that the Russian counter-espionage service is closely following the process of Tehran-Moscow cooperation. Quoting experts in the department, the radio said that for the time being, there is not enough reason for being concerned about the cooperation. The U.S. officials' views in this regard could not be accepted, the experts said.

An official in the Russian counter-espionage service, Yuriy Kobeladze, told the radio that the secret report submitted to Russian officials by the United States about Iran's alleged attempts to produce nuclear weapons is not real.

He said the Russian counter-espionage service has carefully studied the report but it has made sure that Iran has no plans to produce nuclear weapons.

There is no reliable evidence to prove the claims made by the U.S., the official said. Logically, for the time being, we cannot confirm the secret report, Kobeladze said.

Echo Moscow radio quoted experts in the Russian Ministry of Atomic Energy as saying there were no grounds for Washington to be concerned over the issue.

The ministry's spokesman told Echo Moscow radio that Iran which is committed to all international conventions on peaceful use of nuclear energy, has decided to build a nuclear power plant. We are committed to the contract, the spokesman added.

Russia, as a signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) is committed to carry out the contract with the country which is a member of the treaty, he said.

Chairman of the State Duma Committee [passage indistinct] Vladimir Lukin said in an interview with the radio that the U.S. is neglecting political virtues by telling other countries what to do and what not to do in their own trade deals.

Despite the fact that the Russian officials and organizations disagree with Washington's stance regarding Tehran-Moscow nuclear cooperation, Washington plans to table the issue in the upcoming U.S.-Russia summit.

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Travels to Khuzestan Province

Explains Aim of Visit

LD0504084395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0630 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani arrived in Khuzestan Province this morning with the aim of inaugurating dozens of development projects and meeting and talking to the people of that province. He was officially welcomed at Ahvaz airport.

[Unidentified correspondent from Ahvaz Central News Unit] In an interview on arrival in Khuzestan Province, the president said: The main goal in administering the country is situated in the Province of Khuzestan, especially during the period of reconstruction, since Khuzestan is one of the main areas requiring reconstruction. The aim of this visit is to talk to the people of this province—to whom, in all fairness, this revolution owes a great deal and who played a great role during the period of sacred defense—and to inspect the important projects that are taking place in this province.

On the route of Mr. Rafsanjani's vehicle from Ahvaz airport to the location in which he met families of martyrs, people had gathered on both sides of the road along several kilometers. They carried flowers, the tricolor flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and photographs of officials. The president then arrived at the 11 February Hall of the Takhti Sports Center amid the great enthusiasm of the crowd in order to meet the honorable families of the martyrs of Khuzestan Province.

Views Reconstruction Efforts

LD0504163595 Tehran IRNA in English 1507 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Ahvaz (Khuzestan Prov.), April 5, IRNA—President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani said here on Wednesday [5 April] that 10 cities and 1,000 villages destroyed during the Iraqi-imposed war (1980-1988) had been rebuilt in this southern province.

Speaking in a meeting with the people at the Takhti sports stadium, he said that the government was determind to go on with is spendings on development of the province as far as the state treasury allows.

He said that the universities in Khuzestan province have developed and grounds have been prepared to improve the scientific and cultural capability of the provincial people.

He said that Khuzestan province is the richest province of the country in light of 30 billion cubic meters of water reserves, four million hectares of farming lands and oil and gas reserves.

He said that Khuzestan province suffered the hard days of the Iraqi-imposed war and every point of the province which bore the pressure of the war is now enjoying economic growth and further prospects for economic boom would come to light in the future.

He referred to the huge investments on dam building and carrying out the sugar-cane plant in Khuzaestan province and said the largest dam in the Middle East, Karkheh in being built by the Islamic Revolutinary Guards Corps (IRGC).

President Rafsanjani said that the Karkheh dam in northern Khuzestan would irrigate 250,000 hectares of farming lands in the province.

He said that the agricultural complex in the suburb of Ahvaz would produce 800,000 tons of sugar and hundreds of tons of other products including fodder, paper and chipboard.

He said the petrochemical complex rebuilt in the province produces 3.5 million tons of valuable products annually.

Says 'Madness' To Lock Horns With Nation

LD0604112395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, continuing his tour of Khuzestan Province, arrived in the town of Izeh this morning. [passage omitted]

Addressing a glorious gathering of the Izeh people, President Hashemi-Rafsanjani said:

[Begin Hashemi-Rafsanjani recording] I have no doubt that if the White House could see what we are seeing here today, in fact if a translated film of this scene were to be shown to the residents of the White House, they would realize that one should not challenge this kind of people. [crowd shouts approval]

The inhabitants of this town, which is in a remote area at the end of a country road, are utterly deprived. However, they show so much enthusiasm and benevolence toward their revolution, their imam [Khomeyni], and their leader [Khamene'i], and toward one of their weak soldiers [Hashemi-Rafsanjani] who is their guest today.

You sang an anthem for me in your own local Bakhtiari dialect. If the warm sentiments of your anthem were to reach the ears of the mammonist individuals in the world today, they would understand that it is madness to lock horns with this people. There is no alternative but to approach this people through peaceful means. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Official Views Progress in Industrial Research

NC3003094995 Tehran ZAMINEH in Persian 21 Jan-21 Mar 95 pp 78-83

[Interview with Dr. Mohammad Reza Ha'eri, director general for research and development in the Industries Ministry, by an unidentified correspondent in Tehran; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] [passage omitted] The quality and quantity of manpower employed in the research department represent one of the most important measures of the efficiency of research. Statistics in this area show there to be 36,882 scientific and technical employees, 33,692 researchers, 16,559 researchers [as published], 9,712 researchers excluding senior research students, 5,970 research experts, 11,632 research technicians, and 3,190 employees providing research support.

There are 638 scientific and technical personnel for every 1 million people; 388 people engaged in research for every 1 million people; and 285 researchers for every 1 million people. The number of researchers excluding senior research students and those pursuing their doctorates is a mere 169 per 1 million. In Japan there are 3,808 researchers for every 1 million people, in the United States 2,800 for every 1 million, and in Germany 6,741 for every 1 million.

Some 86 percent of researchers are employed in the government sector and 17 percent in the private sector. In the government sector most of the researchers, 26.5 percent, are engaged in the scientific and engineering groups, 22.5 percent in social sciences, and 20 percent in medicine. Some 14 percent are involved in basic sciences and 10 percent in agriculture. In the private sector 41.5 percent of researchers are engaged in social sciences, 28 percent in basic sciences, 15 percent in the technical and engineering fields, 7 percent in medicine, 6.5 percent in agriculture, and 15 percent in the arts. [passage omitted]

[ZAMINEH] Can industrial agencies expand without government support?

[Ha'eri] There is no doubt that, initially, industrial units will need government support. The setting up and development of industrial units in the factories requires government support for the entrepreneurs who have placed establishing research and development units on their agendas.

There are difficulties in supporting these units. In the past few years support was based on providing foreign exchange at low prices, which was one of the worst forms of support, because the injection of foreign exchange at low rates is tantamount to giving free capital to the industrial units; this was one of the barriers to real growth in the country's industries.

Now the government (the Industries Ministry) is seeking to make the methods for support more realistic and sensible. Accordingly, when experts endorse an industrial agency setting up a research and development wing within the factory, the Industries Ministry issues a license. Only then can this group of agencies be authorized to receive the tariffs [ta'refeh] for support.

[ZAMINEH] Since the general policy in the second Five-Year Plan is to boost exports, what role will research and development centers play in implementing this policy?

[Ha'eri] The research and development units in the factories constitute the main nucleus of research activity in the industrial department. These units are responsible for carrying out technological changes in a production unit with the aim of revamping products and byproducts within the framework of the policies of the proprietors of these agencies.

When this objective is achieved and our industries are in keeping with international technology growth, only then will we be recognized for our exports.

[ZAMINEH] What are the problems facing the establishment of research and development units in industrial agencies? How can we eliminate them?

[Ha'eri] Due to the lack of a reasonable level of specialized research force, general economic difficulties, the unclear economic role of research units, and the absence of consistent cultural activity in the industrial and production units, the work on establishing and broadening research and development units is encountering difficulties.

Eliminating the difficulties takes time and government support should be precisely delineated and conveyed to managers.

The University and Industry:

[ZAMINEH] [passage omitted] Why have we been unable to take effective steps to achieve a principled bond between university professors and the executive and managerial directors in the industrial sector?

[Ha'eri] The weak bond between university staff and executive managers does not exist only in our country, but is found in varying degrees in most countries.

The main reason is that university professors do not believe industrial units want to benefit from industrial progress and scientific achievements or that they are ready to bear the necessary expense.

The executive managers in the industrial sector also believe that university professors do not have enough first-hand experience of the problems in industry and are more interested in ineffective research.

[ZAMINEH] As a member of the central management in the Industries Ministry, can you tell us if any steps have been taken to bring the views of university staff and managers of industrial units closer?

[Ha'eri] [passage omitted] A research council has been established comprising the principals of the technical colleges and some of the managers of the country's major industrial units as well as representatives of the Ministries of Higher Education and Industry. We are optimistic that this council will serve as a strong arm for research and play a major role in policymaking in industrial research.

[ZAMINEH] Has this council any specific programs?

[Ha'eri] Yes. In view of the needs of the vehicle manufacturers, the council has been given 120 research projects to study the efficiency of the vehicles. The council has set up various specialized committees in the various groups engaged in research.

In the Industries Ministry we have a program that will enable the specialized groups to present their group research as a model for other industries.

The Country's Research Structure:

[ZAMINEH] You admit that industrial research in our country is not on the desired level. What kind of program would you propose to rectify things?

[Ha'eri] Establishing the conditions to bring industrial research to a more appropriate level requires comprehensive planning by the Industries Ministry. This should be implemented among various institutions and organizations as far as is possible. The following program is on the agenda to create a suitable research structure:

—Creating and developing research and developing departments in industrial units.
—Setting up research departments in affiliated industries.
—Establishing research centers in the private sector.
—Compiling research priorities in the industrial sector.
—Forging and expanding practical and close links among the university centers and the industries in the country. [passage omitted]

[ZAMINEH] What is the primary plan for industrial research?

[Ha'eri] We have envisaged scientific conferences and seminars, upgrading the quality of industrial research, encouraging industrial units to invest in research plans, and research projects.

[ZAMINEH] What role will research play in boosting technical research and what is the position of our industries in this regard?

[Ha'eri] Research plays a basic and key role in generating technical knowhow, which is part of technology. Technical knowledge is meaningless without research. Our industries are rather weak in technical knowledge. In the past few years machinery and equipment have been emphasized and the necessary attention has not been paid to software. Accordingly, a very small part of the Gross National Product has been made available for research. [passage omitted]

[ZAMINEH] How do you assess the support mechanism for research to generate national and indigenous technology on the basis of existing technical knowledge and manpower?

[Ha'eri] Identifying research and development talent makes it possible to select the most appropriate foreign technology and broaden our national and indigenous technology. [passage omitted]

[ZAMINEH] Could you please tell us the most important Industries Ministry activity right now?

[Ha'eri] A report on the performance of the main research and assessment office up to Azar [22 November-21 December] 1373 [year beginning 21 March 1994] reads as follows:

A. Industrial Research Centers:

The Industries Ministry is seeking to expand industrial research applications countrywide and commercialize them. It intends to issue industrial research licenses. These centers will be established by bona fide individuals and will include laboratories and affiliated workshops. By the end of Azar 1373 173 project applications were approved and 59 research licenses issued. In heavy industries, 51 applications have been granted permission in principle for research.

B. Research and Development (R&D) [preceding acronym in English] Units:

The research and development units are considered part of the production units and will implement research projects for developing the factories as well as absorbing, synchronizing, modifying, and revamping technology.

This year 115 production units were inspected and the establishment or expansion of their research units within factory premises was prioritized.

Of these, 69 units conform to the requisite conditions and are due to receive a permit for research and development. By the end of 1372, some 172 similar permits had been issued for research and development. Seven refresher courses specifically for research and development managers were convened. In all, 207 people have been issued research and development licenses.

C. Research Companies and Allied Engineering and Industrial Services:

With the investment and the participation of production units in every sector of industry and with a view to implementing massive projects, research, acquiring technical knowhow, and assimilating technology as well as providing engineering services to the relevant industries, 15 companies have been formed following the necessary coordination. [passage omitted]

D. Plans To Apply Industrial Research:

The problems facing industry can be solved by research. [passage omitted] The next step will be to find someone to implement the research. [passage omitted]

E. Forging Links between Industry and Universities:

Such is the importance of research and development in the progress of industries and the GNP, links with universities as the centers for thinkers and for scientific and technical research have assumed greater importance. [passage omitted]

F. Assessing the Modus Operandi for Supporting Research Units:

To formulate the necessary methodology to support research units in Iran, measures have been taken to study research structures abroad and determine the problems and obstacles in the research units in Iran. The results are being compiled so that the necessary planning may be carried out.

G. Supervising the Project for Gauging the Level of Technology:

To identify the capabilities and bottlenecks in delineating the policies and strategies based on technology that are needed for the country's development, steps have been taken to define projects for the purpose of gauging the current level of technology in various fields of heavy industry. One such project is currently being implemented by the industrial management organization, which is engaged in reviewing and appraising four combinations of technology in nine areas of heavy industries. Some 70 projects have been implemented under the supervision of this organization.

H. Studying the Strategies of All Other Countries:

To facilitate policymaking for development and to present a model to suit the conditions at home and the capabilities, the data on the patterns of industrial development in countries such as South Korea, Malaysia, and the PRC are being studied.

[ZAMINEH] We thank you for answering our questions.

Non-Oil Imports Exceed Exports Last Year

95LA0146C Tehran ABRAR in Persian 1 Feb 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] The share of imports for each Iranian is about $370 annually, and this figure is more than five times the amount of annual exports.

The Central News Unit reports from Arak that Taheri, general manager of the Plan and Budget Organization's General Economic Office, announced the above at a meeting of the Central Province Administrative Council, held yesterday at the governor general's office and attended by the governor general of Central Province, deputy governors general, and a group of general managers of the province's executive organizations. He added: Last year the nation's non-oil exports were $3.8 billion, and this is one-fifth of the amount of the nation's imports during this period.

The general manager of the Plan and Budget Organization's General Economic Office said: The nation's crude oil production capacity is now 3.9 million barrels per day. He added: Of this amount, 2.4 million barrels is exported, and the rest is consumed inside the country.

Ministry Restricts Export of Ironware

95LA0146B Tehran ABRAR in Persian 13 Feb 95 p 4

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Service—As of the first of the next month of Esfand [20 February], exporters of iron implements will also obtain authorization from the Ministry of Commerce.

ABRAR's economic correspondent reports that yesterday the Ministry of Commerce Office of Export and Import Regulations told the Iran Customs Export Office to tell the executive customs offices that as of the first of Esfand 1373 they must demand evidence of authorization from the Ministry of Commerce from exporters of iron implements such as iron beams, iron rods, angle iron and iron profiles.

This order came in the wake of the price increase for these products and their export to neighbor countries. It is worth mentioning that the prices of iron beams, iron rods, and Iran's other iron materials is lower than those in other countries.

*New Foreign Exchange Regulation in Effect

95LA0157A Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 4 Feb 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] The acceptance of foreign currency pledge notes for 50 percent of the foreign currency obtained from exports began today in the foreign currency branches of the banks of the country.

According to a report by our correspondent, based on the new foreign currency decisions of the Market Regulations Committee, which were announced some time ago and are to be implemented from today, exporters of goods may place 50 percent of the foreign currency obtained from their exports at the disposal of other importers or personally engage in importing goods.

Based on this decision, should exporters wish to engage in importing, in regard to the remaining 50 percent, they may go to an Iranian or foreign bank and deposit it or again sell their foreign currency to another person, so that the buyer can engage in importing goods.

According to the report by our correspondent, importers of goods must from today go to the foreign currency branches of banks and fill out the foreign currency pledges to transfer 50 percent of the export foreign currency to others. The pledge forms are sent to the customs in quintuplicate after the pledges are carried out.

Over $2.5 Million Spent on Refugees Daily

95LA0146D Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 1 Feb 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of the Interior's general manager of foreign citizen and immigrant affairs said: The Islamic Republic of Iran spends about $2.5 million per day directly or indirectly on foreign refugees.

On Monday at a meeting with the Canadian ambassador, Ahmad Hoseyni added: Yet the UN only gives the Islamic Republic of Iran an average of $10 million per year to help foreign refugees.

He added: The responsibility for refugees is an international responsibility. The Western nations do not accept new refugees. They must help governments such as Iran to settle them in the region.

During this meeting Ronald P. McLennan, the Canadian ambassador, announced his country's willingness to cooperate and render assistance with foreign refugees in Iran.

He praised the humane policies of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and said his government has given $400,000 to the UN High Commissioner to help establish refugee camps in Khuzestan.

*Increasing Price of Goods in Demand Prohibited

95LA0157D Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 6 Feb 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Service—In a circular letter issued this morning, the Ministry of Industries prohibited any sort of price increase on the part of the producers of 27 kinds of domestic goods.

According to the economic correspondent of KEYHAN, this circular letter announces to the factories that produce those goods that this decision is to be regarded as a national circular letter, and the factories that manufacture these goods are obliged to carry it out.

Also, according to a report by the Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Industries, based on the decision of the Support Headquarters of the Market Regulation Plan, because the decision was made for the goods described in the attachment to be subject to the pricing plan, until such time that a study is conducted to determine the prices of the goods referred to, factories are not permitted to increase any price and must distribute those goods at a suitable quality and without a decrease in supplies.

In this circular letter, 27 kinds of goods, the prices of which are not set, are listed as follows:

1) Tobacco; 2) beverages (in bottles, cans, or other containers); 3) industrial soaps, dish-washing liquid; 4)

toothpaste, shampoo; 5) tissue paper, gauze, diapers, sterile cotton; 6) other disposable medical equipment and products that have not been announced in the first group cited in ratification No. 5201-73M, dated 23/07/1373 [15 October 1994]; 7) televisions; 8) refrigerators, freezers; 9) water and natural gas coolers; 10) natural gas and kerosene water heaters; 11) gas stoves, butane bottles and regulators; 12) vacuum cleaners, meat grinders, fruit juicers; 13) kerosene and gas heaters; 14) fans; 15) washing machines; 16) sewing machines; 17) wires and cables; 18) pane glass; 19) light bulbs; 20) steel and aluminum radiators; 21) electrodes; 22) building paints; 23) motor oil; 24) batteries; 25) spark plugs; 26) antifreeze; 27) brake shoes.

Increased Number of Merchants in Alma-Ata Reported

95LA0146A Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 7 Feb 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Alma-Ata, IRNA—In the last few months there has been a sharp increase in the number of Iranian merchants in Alma-Ata.

With the beginning of direct flights between Tehran and Alma-Ata beginning in the spring of last year, every week a large number of Iranians goes to Alma-Ata on commercial business.

The holding of exhibitions and sales outlets for Iranian goods, including the holding of three Iranian exhibitions in Kazakhstan this year, have had a great effect on the presence of Iranians in Alma-Ata.

The flood of Iranian goods into the markets of Alma-Ata, especially foodstuffs and household goods, continues as before. Every week, tens of large trucks carrying Iranian goods reach Alma-Ata.

With the onset of the cold season, Iranian fruits such as oranges, apples, and tangerines also find their way to market in this city and are found in abundance in the Alma-Ata market.

Before the year 1373 [21 March 1994-20 March 1995], the number of Iranian merchants and companies in Kazakhstan were fewer than the fingers on one hand, but the Kazakhstan Office of Statistics reports that by December of last year 45 Iranian companies had registered officially in Kazakhstan.

Most of the Iranian companies and merchants active in Kazakhstan are from the private sector.

*Industrial Factory Operational in Bushehr

95LA0157I Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 9 Feb 95 p 4

[Interview with engineer Sadeqi, manager of the Bushehr Chemical Industries Company, by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Bushehr—Simultaneous with the blessed 10 days of Fajr, in ceremonies attended by Dr. Jamshidi, the economic and international deputy; the minister of industries and his entourage; Mr. Nadimi-Bushehri, the governor general; Mahdavi, the director general of industries of the province; a group of managers and executive officials; several managers of the production and industrial units of the province; and the board of directors and the director general of the Bushehr Chemical Industries Company, the 25,000-ton Industrial Resin Factory was inaugurated and put into operation in Bushehr.

In an interview with our correspondent, Engineer Sadeqi, the manager of the Bushehr Chemical Industries Company, spoke about the construction and operation of this factory and said: The 25,000-ton Industrial Resin Factory, one of the units of the Bushehr Chemical Industries Company, has been built at a foreign currency cost of $1 million and a capital investment of 5 billion rials [R], with the cooperation and help of the officials of the province and loans from the Bushehr Saderat Bank.

He added: The production of this factory includes polyester, polyurethane, polyvinyl, epoxy ester, and aldehide resins. The polyurethane and epoxy ester resins are being produced for the first time in Iran in this factory.

Pointing out that the 25,000-ton Industrial Resin Factory of Bushehr is one of the largest resin manufacturing factories in the country, he said: The production of this industrial unit will result in $10 million in foreign currency savings each year. Moreover, it will be able to provide for the domestic needs of the country, especially in the fiberglass industries. Our products that exceed domestic use can also be exported.

Engineer Sadeqi thanked the officials of the province, especially the governor general of Bushehr, the director general of the Office of Industries of the province, and the administration of the Bushehr Saderat Bank for their cooperation and help in starting the operations of this factory. In continuation, he pointed out: At the present time, in the production unit for industrial paints, the Bushehr Chemical Industries Company produces 2,000 tons of industrial, marine, and building paints annually, and in the alkyd resin unit, which is used in the paint-manufacturing industry, 9,000 tons of alkyd resin are produced.

In this interview, he emphasized the sincere efforts of the officials of the country to revitalize and develop industrial centers. In conclusion, he pointed out: The continuous support of the officials and those involved in the industry of the deprived regions of the country are the greatest capital for the industries and any industrial unit. We hope such support continues as in the past on all levels until the existing problems are eliminated, so that, God willing, we are able to take a step with more peace of mind toward the growth and prosperity of industry in this country. God willing.

*First Robot Reportedly Operational, Described

95LA0157C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 8 Feb 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Service—Iranian engineers have designed and built the first Iranian robot, called a "self-propelled cart," in six months.

According to a report by the economic correspondent of KEYHAN, yesterday (Tuesday), the inauguration ceremonies of the first Iranian robot were held in the presence of the minister of industries, Engineer Ne'matzadeh, at the Saypa Company.

Pointing out that the robot is a tool that is programmed to automatically bring materials and parts from the warehouse to the production line, Dr. Hasan Bateni, the head of the industrial project of the first Iranian self-propelled cart, added: Since this cart is electric, pollution inside the production halls will decrease, and in making use of this tool, the company will also improve in terms of automation.

He said: To design this cart, at the present, the automation office of the company is able to design and manufacture the programmable logic control, or "PLC."

In regard to the capabilities of this equipment, Bateni said: The self-propelled cart can be programmed for up to six halls, in every hall up to six production divisions, and in every division, 1,000 stations, and it can carry a load of 180-600 kg.

He mentioned the cost of this cart as 1.5 million tumans, which is 15-20 percent less expensive than the price of a similar foreign product.

*Paper, Rubber Production Increased

95LA0157B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 9 Feb 95 p 2

[Interview with engineer Mahmud 'Edalatian, general manager of the chemical and cellulose industries of the Ministry of Industries, by unidentified correspondents on 8 February; place not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Economic Service—The production of paper in the country, at a 100-percent increase compared to 1367 [21 March 1988-20 March 1989], will reach 300,000 tons by the end of this year [20 March 1995].

Engineer Mahmud 'Edalatian, the general manager of the chemical and cellulose industries of the Ministry of Industries, made this announcement yesterday (Wednesday) to a gathering of reporters and said: From the start of this year [21 March 1994] until now, 260,000 tons of various kinds of graft and writing paper has been produced in the country. It is projected that by the end of this year, this amount will reach 300,000 tons.

He projected that with the start of the operations of the wood and paper factory of Mazandaran, the level of production of paper in the country at the end of 1374 [20 March 1996] will amount to 330,000 tons, providing 5 percent of the needs of the country.

He added: The production of various kinds of paper and cardboard in the country this year, with a 250 percent increase compared to 1357 [21 March 1978-20 March 1979] and a 100 percent increase compared to 1367, amounts to 300,000 tons.

Concerning the various kinds of rubber, referring to the 30 percent increase in rubber production since the beginning of this year [21 March 1994] until 8 Bahman [28 January 1995] compared to a similar period last year, Engineer Edalatian said: The production of rubber in the country has reached 84,000 tons. He projected that the production of various kinds of rubber in the country by the end of this year will reach 100,000 tons.

*Restoration of Express Railway Wagons Begins

95LA0157F Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Feb 95 p 3

[Report on interview with "the general manager of passenger railroad cars" by unidentified correspondents from the Central News Unit; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Railroad Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran has restored 40 express passenger railroad cars, 20 of which will join the railroad transport fleet of the country by the end of this year [20 March 1995].

The general manager of passenger railroad cars made this announcement in an exclusive interview with the Central News Unit and said: The imported express cars that were purchased 15 years ago were out of service due to age and constant use and are being restored with the help of the experts and craftsmen of the Railroad Company. At the present time, two trains, each with a capacity of 260 express seats, have joined the railroad fleet, and two other trains will also become operational by the end of the year.

He added: Considering the international standards, the cost of the reconstruction of these cars is much lower than the cost announced by the previous manufacturers, because these cars are each worth 150 million tumans, and, in keeping with standards, up to 50 million tumans would have to be spent on the restoration of each car. However, Iranian experts, spending 7 million tumans for each car, have restored all the technical, frame, body, cabin, seat cover, air conditioning, lighting, and other parts.

*Health Treatment Center Inaugurated in Ardekan

95LA0157H Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 7 Feb 95 p 14

[FBIS Translated Text] On the fifth day of the blessed 10 days of Fajr of the Islamic revolution, the day of distinction and status of Muslim women, in the presence of Dr. Kazemayni, the president of the Martyr Sadduqi Medical and Health and Treatment Services University; Engineer Owlia', the developmental deputy governor general; the governor of Ardekan; and a group of other officials of the province and the city of Ardekan, the Urban Health and Treatment Center No. 1 of Ardekan was inaugurated.

This center was built with 530 square meters under construction on 1,500 square meters of land with 70 million rials [R] in funding, of which 40 percent was donated by a philanthropist named Haj 'Ali Akbar Qane'i-Ardakani, and the remainder consisted of funds from the Presidential Institution. With the operation of this center, 14,000 citizens of this city will be given treatment services.

Official Claims Number of Addicts Declining

95LA0146F Tehran JAHAN-E ESLAM in Persian 1 Feb 95 p 3

[FBIS Translated Text] The commander of the nation's police forces said: Despite the increase in population in recent years, statistics on the number of addicts in the country are declining.

According to General Seyfollahi, commander of the police forces, before the Islamic revolution 1.5 people in the country were addicts, and this figure has now declined to 500,000.

Speaking to a gathering of news reporters at Bushehr, the commander of the police force added: Thanks to the efforts of devoted police force personnel, this year 111 tons of various types of narcotics has been seized from the merchants of death.

He added: This figure includes 1.1 tons of morphine that was seized in the passes in the eastern part of the country last week.

According to him, likewise during this period 130 billion rials [R] in smuggled goods was also seized, a 200 percent increase over the same period last year.

He said all the nation's provinces have been equipped with the notebook system (special awareness patrols). Using this system and with instant computer notification, stolen vehicles in the nation's passes and roads can easily be identified. The commander of the police forces said equipping and putting into operation eight laboratories for the scientific identification of crimes in various parts of the country is another police force activity.

Nepal

Communist Groups Demand Repeal of Indian Treaty

BK3003155995 Hong Kong AFP in English 0821 GMT 30 Mar 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Kathmandu, March 30 (AFP)—Four communist splinter factions on Thursday [6 April] demanded that the minority communist government immediately repeal the "unequal" 1950 Indo-Nepal Peace and Friendship Treaty.

"The 1950 Indo-Nepal Treaty, which is obsolete now, has forced Nepal to become India's semi-colony," the four factions said in a statement.

"So long as that treaty is not revoked, Nepal and the Nepalese people will remain dependent on a foreign country," said the statement released by the Nepal Communist Party-Unity Centre, NCP- Flaming Torch Carriers (Mashal), NCP- Marxist, Leninist and Maoist, and the Nepal Communist League:

"The treaty is against Nepal's national sovereignty, independence, security, self-esteem and economic progress," it said.

The treaty is widely seen here as giving India political leverage over Nepal, including provisions such as an open border between India and its tiny neighbour.

The treaty supposedly allows extensive cooperation between the two countries in defence matters, but Nepal has often complained that India has not informed Kathmandu of past conflicts with China and its arch-rival, Pakistan.

The four factions regretted that even the present Nepal Communist Party-United Marxist and Leninist (NCP-UML) government, which came to power after mid-term polls last November, is doing no more than revising the treaty instead of cancelling it.

The Deputy Prime Minister, Foreign and Defence Minister Madhav Kumar Nepal, reportedly discussed amendments to the Treaty during a visit to India in February.

Prime Minister Addresses SAARC Law Conference

LD0204155395 Kathmandu Radio Nepal in English 1415 GMT 2 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The fourth SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] law conference concluded in Kathmandu today. Addressing the concluding function, Prime Minister Mana Mohan Adhikari said the present government is determined to create a situation where all Nepalese can exercise their rights freely, and remove all sorts of discrimination, raise the condition of backward classes and tribes, impart social justice and establish the concept of rule of law in practice. He observed that the SAARC law has, since its inception in 1991, been very instrumental in bringing together the legal communities of (?our) region for closer cooperation and developing understanding.

Mr. Adhikari expressed the belief that the lawyers and legal practitioners of the SAARC region could well contribute in developing a common and effective mechanism for increasing the flow of trade and commerce in the SAARC region. He also expresed the confidence that under the active involvement of our judiciary old and irrelevant laws would be replaced by laws confirming the the spirit of our constitution.

Pakistan

Bhutto: No Compromise on Principles During U.S. Visit

BK0504135595 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 5 Apr 95 p 5

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Garhi Khuda Bux Bhutto (Larkana), April 4 (APP): Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that she would not compromise on principles during her visit to United States, scheduled to start from April 5.

Addressing a mammoth public meeting at the 16th death anniversary of Zulfiqar Ali Bhutto, founder Chairman of Pakistan People's Party (PPP) here Tuesday, the Prime Minister said she was carrying with her the message of 120 million Pakistanis to the US government and their representatives that they wanted to live with dignity.

She said some sections in the country were of the view that during the US visit, Pressler Amendment will be removed and Benazir will bring in 60 F-16 fighters to Pakistan, adding they were mistaken.

"Benazir would not compromise on principles,' she commented and said USA would be mistaken if it was of the view that it could buy Pakistan in exchange of F-16s. 'Thank you' she remarked and said Pakistanis were not a saleable commodity.

Similarly, she said, if anybody in USA was thinking that it could force Pakistan for a compromise on principles through Pressler Amendment, he was inaccurate in his estimates. Benazir Bhutto said she would tell USA in clear terms that her purpose of visit was to explain that Pakistan was a democratic country and its people were hard workers who will not compromise on principles.

She said that if USA wished to end missile race in this region and success of a non-proliferation policy in the area, it would have to adopt an even handed policy in the region to find regional solution for regional problems. She said this tour was an introductory voyage to carry the message of 120 million Pakistani people and voice of their hearts to USA.

"They wanted me to go their with dignity, raise the image of Pakistan in United States and not to compromise on principles," she added.

Prime Minister said that her government was concentrating on reinforcing country's defence as well as strengthening the national economy.

Her government is purchasing modern tanks for the army, gunboats for the navy and fighter and bomber aircraft for the air force, she said. As regards economy, the prime minister said due to lucrative and innovative economic policies the government has so far attracted more than 12 billion dollars under various Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) with reputable companies from USA, UK, France, and Hong Kong to invest in various developmental projects in Pakistan.

She said when these projects will be accomplished in the near future, they will provide job opportunities to the unemployed youth in the country.

The Prime Minister said only a democraticaly elected government can solve people's problems and ensure justice and peace in the country on the basis of equality.

She said dictators and their sponsored governments always confront the people and tend to strengthen their hold through the policy of divide and rule.

She said her government was fully aware to the need of a well-equipped army and to strengthen the country's defence her government was purchasing gun-boats for the Pakistan Navy, fighter and bomber aircrafts for PAF and modern tanks for the Army.

Benazir Bhutto said dictators had brought the Kalashnikov culture in the country, promoted narcotics, and ignited sectarianism and ethnicity, encouraged terrorism and incited brother against brother.

She said Pakistan was against terrorism and for that purpose the government was taking stringent measures to nab terrorists and their supporters. She said the enemies of the country and dmeocracy within and outside Pakistan were instigating plots to dislodge the People's government by encouraging terrorists.

She warned terrorists and drug-traffickers, to leave Pakistan adding she will not allow their operation on this sacred land any more.

Similarly, the Prime Minister said, the government will not allow religious parties to spread sectarianism in the country.

She said the government has all the regards and respects for religious parties, but added that a clear distinction has to be made between religious and sectarian parties.

Prime Minister said Pakistan has alrady signed an extradition treaty with Egypt to hand over terrorists to each other to discourage terrorism in the region.

Similary, Benazir Bhutto said that Pakistan had very recently handed over an international terrorist Ramzi Yusuf to the US government with the hope to eliminate terrorist activities worldwide. Within the country, she said the government was making allout efforts to eliminate terrorists to maintain law and order.

She said, at the same time, the government was taking steps to eliminate bribery in the country and very soon a law ill be enacted to obligate members of national and Provincial assemblies to submit their income tax returns every year.

'Good,' 'Bad' of Visit Examined

BK0504124595 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 5 Apr 95 pp 1, 10

["News Analysis" by Nayyar Zaidi: "Benazir's US Visit; will the target be achieved"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Washington: The United States doesn't want Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to go back home "empty handed". This is the good news.

The bad news is that, so far, the administration has not been able to find "something" that could be given to the Prime Minister and which would make her visit look fruitful in a tangible manner. Sources told The News that there is a strong possibility that restriction on Overseas Private Investment Corporation (OPIC) may be lifted. This US agency underwrites political risk for US investors in overseas markets. Under one interpretation of the Pressler Amendment, OPIC has been prohibited from covering US investors in Pakistan.

The other bright possibility is the announcement that a "legislative process" will be initiated to get a one-time waiver from the Pressler Amendment so that the F-16s could be delivered. Robin Raphel has ruled out any possibility of a presidential certification. "The president simply cannot do it," she had said. The only other route is through Congress. Senator Hank Brown, Chairman of the nearest Sub-committee of the Senate Foreign relations Committee, was going to hold a hearing on April 5 in which he had invited Senator Larry Pressler, Chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, and Congressman Lee Hamilton, former Chairman of the House International Relations committee. However, according to one source, the Embassy of Pakistan requested that the hearing should be delayed since Prime Minister Bhutto was scheduled to arrive on April 5.

There was some fear that any negative or controversial statement by Senator Larry Pressler on that day could set a negative tone for the Bhutto visit. This is the optimistic version of the postponement. However, one source said here was a "snag" which made Senate Brown [as published] postpone the hearing. Senator Brown's office promised to get The News more details but had not gotten back before the filing of this story.

If the administration is able to get this process on track sources visualise this scenario: Senate Subcommittee hearings would be over by end of May. During the summer, the proposal could clear the full committee and Senate floor and be incorporated in the 1996 authorisation bill. It will be wrapped in the form of a rider- clause to the authorisation bill "grand-fathering" the F-16s, i.e. declaring that since the order was placed before the 1990 sanctions, the planes were protected. The success of all this would depend on the cooperation of Senator Pressler and Republican Congress.

Recently, at the behest of the Embassy of Pakistan, a political contribution was made to Senator Larry Pressler. The exact amount is not known but estimates range from $10,000 to as much as $25,000.

Its effects would not be known until the senator softens his public stance. But political sources point out that the Republican congress is too much bogged down with the domestic agenda and there is strong opposition to repeal of Pressler Amendment among Democrats.

At the point the plan is to try and nail down at lest one or both of these possibilities so that President Bill Clinton could announce it during his joint press appearance with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto after his talks on April 11. This is traditional for the White House visitors.

However, a White House senior official said it was not "100 percent sure" that the President would have joint press conference. "It will depend on his other commitments," he said adding that they would not know until Friday, April 7 or Monday April 10. Visiting head of governments do have a certain priority over "other commitments".

This uncertainty indicates that if there is nothing substantive to offer, the President would avoid a joint appearance and let Bhutto deal with the press outside the White House.

The government of Pakistan is taking all precautions to keep the press gathering inside the White House "safe and comfortable", as one source said. Only a handful of US newsmen would be allowed under a "pool" of ten or even less which would be barely enough to accommodate those traveling with the prime minister.

Any announcement about the "legislative process" regarding Pressler would also put on hold any demands by Pakistan to refund the $658 million that it has paid for the 28 planes. The resale of the F-16s and refunding bulk of the money to Pakistan seemed to be a relatively less difficult and more practical assignment. Saudi Arabia, Oman, Turkey and Greece turned down the offer. They may have their own reasons but sources point out that it is not in the interest of Lockheed (or other aircraft manufacturers) to have these planes sold to anyone.

"They have already received their money. If these planes are resold to, say for example, Saudi Arabia, Lockheed (or others) stand to lose $600 million worth of prospective business because Saudi (or Omani) budget would not be able to accommodate new purchases for sometime." Pakistan is paying an annual storage fee of $50,000 per aircraft. Multiplied by 28 aircrafts, this totals to an annual business of $1.4 million for the storage house. "Even than storage house must be lobbying against the reselling of planes because it would lose that much business," quipped one source.

The third most important objective is to obtain some kind of overt White House support for the resolution of the Kashmir dispute in accordance with the UN resolutions. Not much should be expected in this regard. The Indian lobbying firm is very close to the White House and one its members is a former law partner of Hillary Clinton's firm in Little Rock, Arkansas. "This connection is enough to keep the White House neutral in this situation and this is all what the Indians want," a source said.

Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, Peter Tarnoff, will call on Prime Minister Bhutto at the Blair House, the official guest house, on April 11 just before her meeting with President Clinton. The absence of Secretary of State Warren Christopher and Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott is conspicuous. When asked by The News where these officials would be, a senior State Department official said: "I do not know whether they would be out of the country or out of town but they would not be available."

Normally, the program of officials at such level is pretty clear for a time frame of one week. Since Strobe Talbott had played the key role in "quiet diplomacy"in US, Pakistan relations since April 1994, his absence from the meetings is raising eyebrows. The Prime Minister's meetings with key congressional members are also of 15-minute duration which do not allow for any substantive exchange.

Pressler Amendment To Lead Bhutto Agenda

BK0404152195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 4 Apr 95 p 12

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Islamabad; Guns not butter are the top priority for Pakistan Prime Minister Bhutto during her visit to the United States.

She wants military hardware, particularly the 38 F-16 aircraft. To get the fighters, Bhutto has to persuade Washington to remove Islamabad from the focus of the Pressler amendment.

Application of the legislation to Pakistan in 1990 fractured 43 years of military cooperation and has left senior officials here feeling abandoned and mistreated by the US in the post-Cold War era.

"We have repeatedly told Washington that the Amendment discriminates against Pakistan and has not served as a check against nuclear proliferation," says Foreign Minister Sardar Asif.

The aid block is serious because throughout the Cold War the US has been Pakistan's predominant source of military hardware.

"The blockage has created a serious military imbalance between Pakistan and India," says Defence Minister Aftab Shahban Mirani, a line Bhutto will pursue during her talks in Washington. She is cautious about the prospects of success: "I can bring F-16s tomorrow if we are ready to pay a price," she says in an effort to cool expectations. "But we will not compromise on our national interests and principles."

Washington's price is Pakistan's signature on the nuclear Non- Proliferation Treaty.

Pakistan says its nuclear programme is designed as a deterrent to India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974. Says Foreign Office official Munir Akram, "we are ready for any restrictions on the nuclear programme if they are also imposed on India."

Several years discussions have failed to break the Pressler amendment deadlock, but Bhutto will be pressing for a special waiver to get at the blocked supplies. She will also argue that if the hardware is not released Pakistan should be reimbursed the $658 million it has paid so it can obtain equipment elsewhere.

She may take up an argument outlined by P.I. Cheema, professor of international relations at Quaid-i-Azam University, who urges the US to realise that its stance forces Pakistan to put more reliance on nuclear weapons "since its conventional arms capability is going down."

Pressler also jeopardises pledges by US investors of energy sector investments worth $3.5 billion because the legislation prevents guarantees for investments in Pakistan since independence in 1947 stands at only $45 million.

Her strongest cards in dealing with Washington are goodwill generated by the prompt extradition of Ramzi Ahmad Yusuf and by the expulsion of Arabs who fought with the Afghan guerrillas against the Soviet-backed government in Kabul.

These moves, together with the recent confiscation of the property of seven known drug barons, have averted the danger of the country being placed on Washington's watch-list of terrorist states.

In approving aid for the drive against drugs, Washington recently described Pakistan as "a strategically-located, moderate Islamic state with a nuclear weapons capability. The government of Pakistan has also used its moderating influence with other Islamic countries."

And in January, US defence Secretary William Perry also described Pakistan as a "moderate Islamic state" a description that was music to the ears of Bhutto and top officials. It means the Prime Minister's negotiating will not be distracted by US questions about fundamentalism.

Editorial Hails 'Breakthrough'

BK0604054195 Islamabad THE NEWS in English 6 Apr 95 p 7

[Editorial: "Breakthrough on Pressler"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The US President, Bill Clinton, has underlined the need to seriously review the policy Washington has pursued towards Pakistan, summed up in the shape of the Pressler Amendment. The rationale for undertaking the review is that the existing punitive policy measures necessitated by the application of Pressler have not borne fruit. "We have to ask whether the policy we have pursued in the last few years is achieving its objectives and whether we would be a stronger force for peace and reconciliation and ultimately for the defanging in terms of weapons of mass destruction in the areas if we change our policy or if we stay with it," Clinton was quoted saying in a press conference in Washington.

Obviously, some hard-headed strategic calculations, and not altruistic motives, have driven the Clinton administration to appreciate the futility of persisting with giving Pakistan the stick for its alleged nuclear misdemeanour. It is unclear what shape this new policy would take, and to what extent it will be sympathetic to Pakistan's case on the issue. But it appears quite clear that it is unlikely to be wholly predicated on the Pressler Amendment and fettered by its discriminatory clauses that ban any kind of military and economic aid and assistance to Pakistan.

From Islamabad's point of view, this is a positive development. Pakistan has been brutally penalised in the name of fighting nuclear proliferation in the region through a law that has given India, South Asia's original nuclear sinner, a free hand to expand its nuclear programme. To its credit, Islamabad has stood firm its ground and refused to cave in to the pressure, not only of American aid cuts but also of speedy growth of the Indian nuclear arsenal and missile programme since the Amendment came into effect five years ago. Now a person no less than the US President himself, by talking about the need for a policy review towards Pakistan, has endorsed the principled stance that Islamabad took on the issue. This also indicates that the US is willing to do something to remove the hindrances that block the progress of its commercial, political and diplomatic ties with Pakistan.

It is unlikely that the review of policy will be carried out immediately, promising instant results. In all probability it is going to be a long, uphill battle for the Clinton administration to convince the Republican-dominated Congress of the imperatives of the new times that have rendered the Pressler Amendment purposeless. It is not even sure whether the compromise solution to the Pressler problem would be to Pakistan's advantage. But the fact would pass for a commendable breakthrough that Islamabad's view is at last being echoed in the echelons of the White House, that long resounded with firm hostility towards it.

Police Arrest 120 Involved in Karachi Crimes

BK0504142195 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1400 GMT 5 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Karachi, police arrested 120 accused involved in crimes from different parts of the city during the last 24 hours. The police also arrested three dacoits [bandits] after an encounter in the [word indistinct] east area last night. Some arms were also recovered from the accused.

Official Denies Kashmir 'Secret Understanding'

BK0604074295 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 6 Apr 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A Foreign Office spokesman in Islamabad has rejected the assertion by Indian leader P.N. Dhar claiming that a secret understanding was reached at Simla in connection with the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir. The spokesman described the assertion as fabricated and baseless. He added that the late Mrs. Indira Gandhi herself in a statement on 23 April 1978 dismissed it as absolutely ridiculous.

Sri Lanka

Protests Against H. Clinton, VOA Station Reported

BK0504160495

[FBIS Editorial Report] Hong Kong AFP in English at 0905 GMT on 5 April carries a 200-word report on reaction to First Lady Hillary Clinton's visit to that country. The report notes that "a group of Sri Lankans" protested the first lady's visit outside the U.S. Embassy as part of a protest against a VOA facility, approved by the Sri Lankan government, to be set up in "northwest Iranawila." The protesters were identified as belonging to a "hitherto unknown group called Friends of the Third World" and carried placards and shouted slogans demanding that Hillary Clinton leave Sri Lanka and that the government dismantle the VOA relay station. The demonstration lasted about 30 minutes, and one of the placards read "Mrs. Clinton go home with VOA." The demonstration was overseen by "dozens of armed police" and the protesters later "dispersed peacefully."

Neither Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English at 1045 GMT 5 April nor Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English have been observed to carry any report, reaction, or commentary on the Hillary Clinton visit.

Reportage on Next Round of Talks With LTTE

Foreign Minister Comments

BK0304162295 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 3 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The next round of peace talks between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] may be held between the 8th and 10th of this month. Minister of Foreign Affairs Lakshman Kadirgamar told the SLBC that the government has indicated its willingness to hold peace talks on these dates. The government is awaiting the LTTE response to this proposal.

The next round of talks will be upgraded to cabinet ministerial level as sensitive and vital issues are to be discussed. It is likely that the fourth round of peace talks will also be held in Jaffna. The government sources also indicated that the government delegation will comprise two cabinet ministers and two top officials. The source also said that the next round of talks would mainly focus on the political package prepared by the government to bring about a lasting solution.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga at a weekend press conference said that the government was keen to discuss a political formula, as well as rehabilitation and other relevant (?possibilities) to the North. She also indicated that it was time for the LTTE to come up with their political proposals and pay more attention to the more sensitive issues.

President: Years To Come to a Settlement

BK0104132395 Colombo Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation International Service in English 1045 GMT 1 Apr 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The next round of talks between the government and the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] will focus not only on technical matters such as providing various facilities and amenities to the North, but also on the political agenda in finding lasting peace.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga said this while responding to queries raised by media personnel yesterday at a news briefing held at the Presidential Secretariat following her state visit to India and Bangladesh. Nowhere in the world's history two warring parties have come to a negotiated settlement overnight, she said. The peace dialogue initiated by the government with the LTTE will probably take years to come to a settlement. The government has prepared its political proposals and is waiting for a response from the LTTE. The next round of talks will mainly evolve on the political package forwarded by the government.

Referring to another question raised, she said that the issue of extradition of Prabhakaran to India does not arise, as the court case filed in India against him for alleged assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has not been concluded. The government is willing to provide all facilities to the North. Recently, the government decided to lift the embargo on fuel, in addition to essential items on which embargo have been already lifted.

Referring to the Pooneryn issue, she said the removal of the Pooneryn camp was a vital question and the government had decided to shift the camp for the moment. Their cadres are allowed to move around freely, fishing ban in the North has been partly lifted. When negotiations resume, provision of more facilities could be discussed. The government is keenly awaiting a response from the LTTE to resume political talks and they must inform the time and dates to the government.

LTTE Letter to President

BK0504101195 (Internet) THE NEPAL DIGEST in English 2300 GMT 3 Apr 95

[LTTE "Press release" dated 28 March; issued in London on 30 March—received via Internet]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [To] Honorable Chandrika Bandaranayake Kumaratunga President of Sri Lanka Presidential Secretariat, Colombo

Dear President:

Thank you very much for your letter dated 24th March 1995.

We have given careful consideration to the contents of your communication in which we find positive elements of reconciliation to certain issues we raised. On that basis we have decided to extend our dead line to 19th April 1995. This space of time will help you facilitate the speedy implementation of your decision.

In your letter you have raised objections to the fixing of deadlines which you call ultimatums. This is unavoidable since we have our own compulsions to ensure that the peace process should be a productive exercise that promotes the interests of our people. Furthermore as a party in conflict involved in the negotiating process we reserve the right to set a deadline to terminate the peace talks if we are of the opinion that the negotiations have reached a stalemate without producing a constructive result. We were compelled to set a deadline since the negotiating process reached an impasse without reaching any substantial result, on certain urgent issues that seriously affected the conditions of our people. Now that you have made a favorable response for some of these issues, we have decided to extend our deadline for three weeks in the hope, that you will implement your decisions and that the peace process can be advanced in a positive direction.

We are pleased to note that you have arrived at positive decisions with regard to lifting of the economic embargo including fuel and the removal of restrictions on fishing. While we welcome your positive decisions on the above stated issues, we should insist that urgent and immediate action should be taken to implement these decisions without delay. I need not emphasize that decisions, pledges, and promises are of little or no relevance until and unless they are put into concrete practical implementation. It is to ensure that the implementation process should proceed without delay, we have set a deadline. I hope you will understand our apprehensions on this matter. In this context we wish to point out that one of your earlier decisions i.e. relaxation on the embargo on certain items has not been properly implemented because of the obstruction caused by the military.

You have suggested that the implementation of your decision requires mutual discussions with regards to some practical details. We welcome your proposal and suggest an earlier date of 1st April 1995 for such a dialogue.

We are disappointed to note that some of the other crucial issues we have raised are not addressed to our satisfaction in your latest communication. You are fully aware that an opening of a passage to Jaffna is of critical importance to our people. We have been insisting that the removal of Poonaryn Army Camp would facilitate the free and unhindered movement of our people along Sangupitty causeway. Your response to this is negative in the sense that you have reiterated your government's old position of shifting the front defense lines of the camp to 600m. On the question of freedom of mobility of our armed cadre in the Eastern province your government has not so far made any conciliatory decisions. You will appreciate that the resolution of these issues is of crucial importance for the stabilization of conditions of peace, for the restoration of normalcy and for the promotion of peace negotiations. Therefore we suggest that your forthcoming delegation is empowered to discuss these crucial matters.

In your letter you have listed a series of actions as concessions or rather privileges accorded to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (Sri Lanka)]by your government to build up trust and confidence. According to you that action included initiation of peace talks without demanding the laying down of arms, declaration of cessation of hostilities, visiting of the government peace delegation to Jaffna etc. It is wrong on your part to assume such actions constitute special privileges accorded to the LTTE. But rather they should be viewed as necessary conditions to undertake the peace initiative. Your perception of the LTTE as an armed group is predicated on a mistaken conception. We are a national liberation movement deeply embedded with our people, articulating the wishes and aspirations of the Tamil Nation. Having opted for unconditional peace negotiations with the LTTE with the implicit recognition of it's predominant role, it is improper to designate the prerequisite of the process as privileges accorded to the negotiating party.

Finally I wish to state that the speedy implementation of your positive decisions and the earlier resolution of other important issues will certainly help to promote the peace talks that includes political negotiations on the ethnic conflict.

With kind regards

Yours sincerely

V.Pirabakaran Leader Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

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